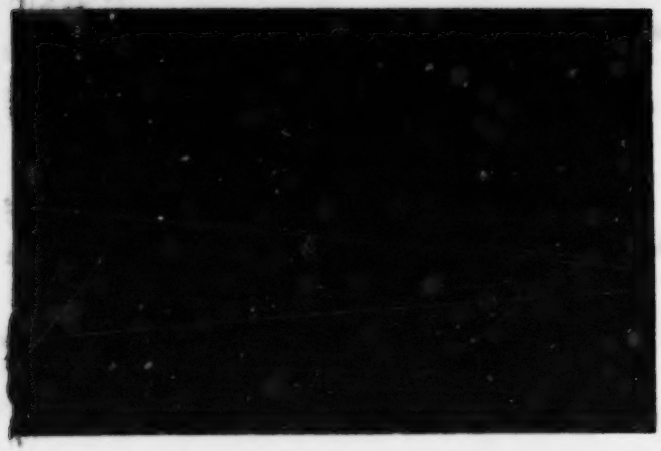
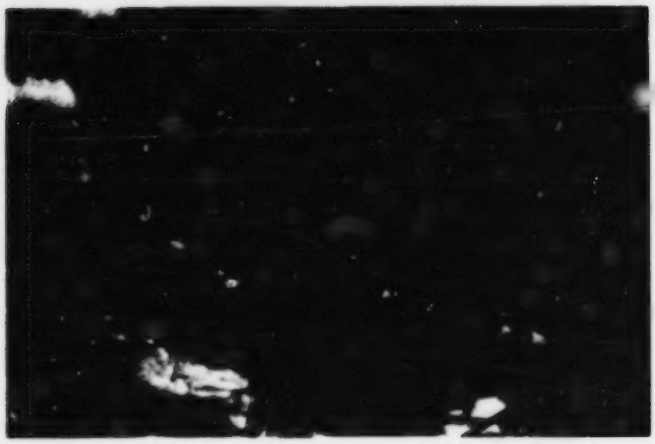


TEN YEARS LATER



NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

A REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES
APRIL 1, 1973 – MARCH 31, 1983

Alberta
NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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Alberta
NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2nd Floor, Provincial Building, 9621 - 96 Avenue, Postal Bag 900-14, Peace River, Alberta, Canada T0H 2X0 403 624-6274

June, 1983

The Northern Alberta Development Council is pleased to present this ten year review of Council's activities since its re-establishment in 1973.

We have tried to capture the essence of many dedicated hours of deliberation and travel undertaken by the Council on behalf of the people of northern Alberta. Over the past ten years we have done our utmost to increase dialogue and bring government closer to northern citizens. The dialogue has been strong and the information exchange very worthwhile. Our conferences, workshops and seminars have been well-attended. Northern Albertans have certainly made their views and desires known, and hopefully we have in turn assisted in properly representing those views to the Provincial Cabinet and various departments of government.

The Northern Alberta Development Council looks forward to further discussion and interchange of ideas with northerners as we continue our public meetings and policy advisory role on behalf of the north.

Norm A. Weiss, MLA
Chairman

INTRODUCTION

The Northern Alberta Development Council was created to give special attention to the development potentials of northern Alberta. Particularly since its re-establishment in the fall of 1973, the Council has dedicated itself to increasing the amount of public participation in the planning and design of delivery systems for government services in northern Alberta.

The current members of the Council felt that it was timely to provide government and the citizens of northern Alberta with a review of activities over the past ten years. It is hoped that the following pages give some idea of the interests and concerns which the Council has pursued since 1973.

Detailed information on each part of the review is available from the Council's support staff, the Northern Development Branch of Alberta Tourism & Small Business, Bag 900-14, Peace River, Alberta T0H 2X0.

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL 1983/84

Back row (L to R): Victor Young; Peter Erasmus; Dick Upham; Bob Elliott, MLA; Rod Todd; Joe Molho.

Front row (L to R): Barry Lazoruk, Vice-Chairman; Chris Jones; Norm Weiss, MLA, Chairman; Joanne Mitchell.

HISTORY

The Northern Alberta Development Council had its origin in 1963 and was charged with "The responsibility of advising the provincial government on ways and means that economic and social development could be enhanced in the portion of the province north of the 55th parallel". Creation of a "Provincial Northern Development Advisory Board" was one of the recommendations of the 1958 Royal Commission on the Development of Northern Alberta chaired by J.G. MacGregor.

The Council was originally composed of five members, including two MLAs, who served as Chairman and Deputy Chairman. In 1968 the membership was increased to six to improve geographic representation. Members of the Council who served during this initial period were:

Hon. A.O. Fimrite, MLA Spirit River, Chairman	1963-71
Hon. I. McLaughlin, MLA Grande Prairie, Deputy Chairman	1963-71
D. Barton, Slave Lake	1968-71
W.E. Brese, Edmonton	1967-71
R.E. Duncan, Fort McMurray	1963-71
J.E. Oberholtzer, Edmonton	1963-66
J. Stromstedt, Berwyn	1963-71

The Council, in its role as an advisory body, travelled widely and gathered information on the needs of the north. In 1965, in order to accelerate certain developments in northern areas, the Legislature appropriated funds to the Northern Alberta Development Council which enabled it to finance a number of special projects such as airstrips, bridges, water systems, land surveys, etc.

During the 1965-70 period, some $21 million was expended on these "priority projects". The funds were intended to be an additional investment in the north. However, as the special Council funding program progressed, there were indications that regular department funds were being held back on the expectation that the department could later fund these programs through the Northern Alberta Development Council. Thus this method of incremental funding became somewhat suspect.

After detailed review, a new Northern Development Act was introduced in the Legislative Assembly. In early 1971, Bill 116 was passed. The new legislation called for establishment of a corporation to be called the Northern Development Commission, which was to assume all the powers, duties and responsibilities of a county in the region roughly covering Improvements Districts 15 to 24 in northern Alberta. At the same time, a study group was assessing northern development programs and policies. The study group report supporting the commission concept was completed and presented to the new government in early 1972.

After much deliberation, the new administration decided not to proclaim Bill 116, and moved to reconstitute the Northern Alberta Development Council as an advisory body to government without any line department delivery capability or special funds.

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, 1973-83

In early 1973, Honourable J.A. Adair, Minister without Portfolio responsible for Northern Development and Indian/Metis Liaison, and the new Chairman of the reconstituted Northern Alberta Development Council, began to solicit nominees from all walks of life in northern Alberta to sit on the new Council. This process was completed by mid-1973 and the new Council held its first formal meeting in November, 1973 in Peace River.

During the 1973-83 period, the Northern Alberta Development Council dedicated itself to increasing the dialogue and flow of information between the provincial government and citizens of northern Alberta. It has attempted to do this in two ways: by holding frequent, well-advertised public meetings in various locations in the north to hear briefs from northern people and obtain answers to their questions; and by acting as a northern advisory body to government through the development of policy and program recommendations for the Provincial Cabinet.

The Council has also attempted to increase dialogue by holding conferences and seminars, directing original research into unique problems, and compiling and distributing relevant publications. The Council has also undertaken several multi-faceted activities to support its efforts in northern Alberta, including the design of the Northern Alberta Development Council Student Bursary Program, the advisory role in development and implementation of the Alberta North Agreements, interchange trips with the Territorial Councils of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, and participation in the annual interprovincial meetings of the Ministers Responsible for Northern Development.

The Council, since it consists of northern residents, sees things through northern eyes, and has attempted to supply government with a northern point of view on a wide range of issues, supplementing and complementing the perspectives of the northern MLAs. The present Council defines as its purpose:

To help the Provincial Government and northern Members of the Legislative Assembly plan for the future of Alberta's north and its people, by acting as an advisory body to the Minister responsible for Northern Development; and through him, assist in the investigation, planning, promotion and coordination of practical measures to foster and advance development in northern Alberta.

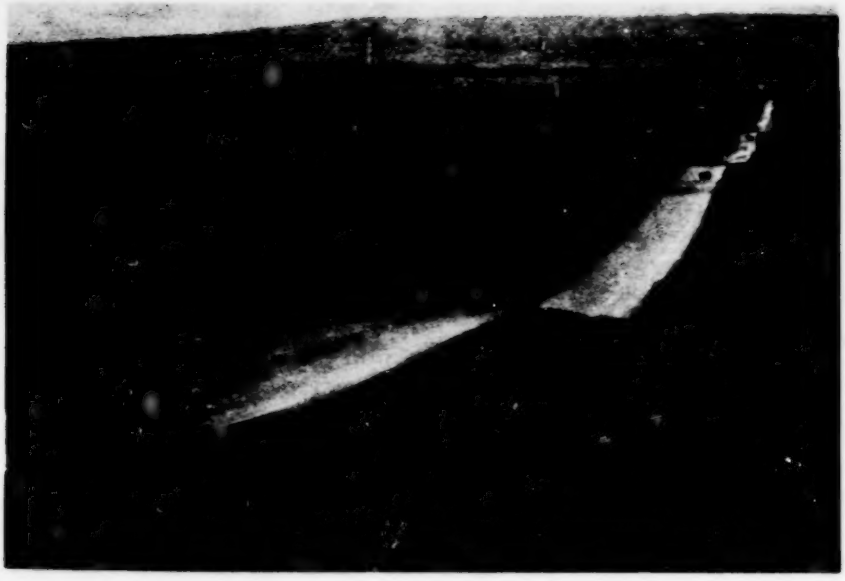
The specific objectives which the Council has sought to promote are:

- To increase economic opportunities so that young people will not be compelled to leave northern Alberta.
- To enhance the viability of the northern lifestyle.
- To support the desires of all northern people for a fair share of the wealth and potential of the area.
- To support the desires of various cultural and ethnic groups for maintenance of their distinctive heritage.

LEGISLATION

The Council is governed by the Northern Alberta Development Council Act (R.S.A. 1970, c.259). The present Act, as amended in 1975, states:

1. This Act may be cited as the Northern Alberta Development Council Act.
2. In this Act, "Council" means the Northern Alberta Development Council.
3. There is hereby established a council to be known as the Northern Alberta Development Council.
4. The functions of the Council are to investigate, monitor, evaluate, plan and promote practical measures to foster and advance general development in northern Alberta, and to advise the government thereon, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Council may investigate the requirements of the people resident in northern Alberta and make recommendations thereon in respect of:
   (a) social and economic development;
   (b) development of communities and service delivery; and
   (c) development of government services and programs.
5. The Council shall be composed of not less than eight and not more than 10 members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, one of whom shall be designated as Chairman.
6. Subject to The Public Service Act there may be appointed a Director and such employees as are necessary to assist the Council to fulfill its functions.
7. For the purpose of carrying out its function, the Council may hold public meetings.
8. A member of the Council may be paid a salary and compensation for travelling and other expenses incurred as a member as the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council may prescribe.
9. The Council shall prepare an Annual Report of its activities which shall be laid before the Legislative Assembly not later than 15 days after the opening of the session next following the preparation of the report.

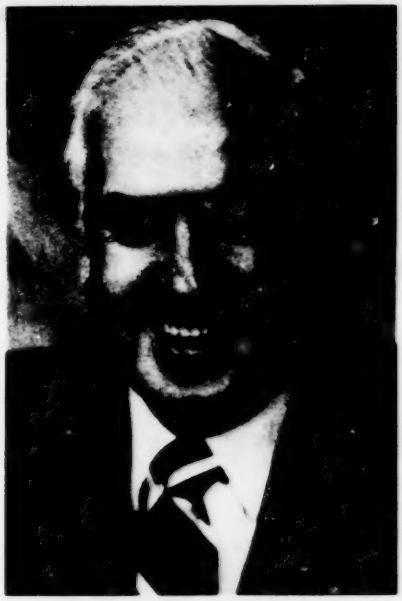


GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSIBILITY

The Northern Alberta Development Council's area of responsibility includes all that area north of the line noted on the map on page 18.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Northern Alberta Development Council, 1973-1983, in alphabetical order, were:



Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair,
MLA Peace River,
Broadcaster
Chairman, 1973-75

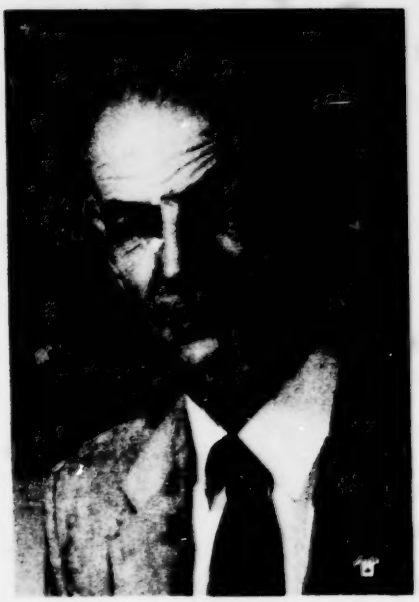
Elmer Borstad,
MLA Grande Prairie,
Businessman
1978-79
Chairman, 1979-82

Larry Chorney, Fairview,
Municipal Administrator
1976-79

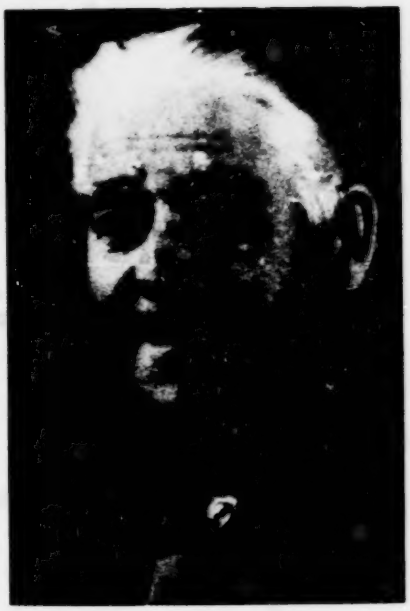
Bertha Clark, Fort McMurray,
Native Leader
1973-76

Chief Joe Dion, Kehewin,
Farmer
1976-77

Hon. Bob Dowling,
MLA Edson,
Pharmacist
Chairman, 1975-79



John Drobot, St. Paul,
Farmer (later MLA St. Paul)
1978-80



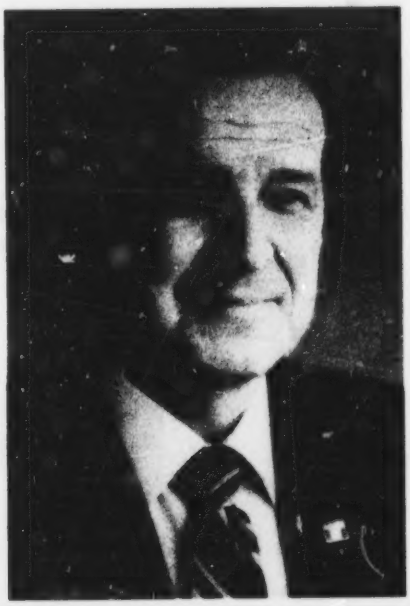
Bob Duncan, Fort McMurray,
Company Executive
Vice-Chairman 1973-77

Dr. Bob Elliott,
MLA Grande Prairie,
Agronomist
1982-Present

Peter Erasmus, McRae,
Farmer
1981-Present

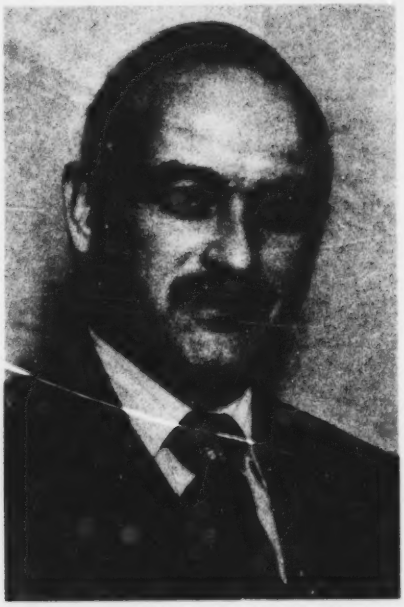
Jim Fletcher,
Peace River/Grande Prairie,
Accountant
1973-77

Barrie Fraser, St. Paul,
Businessman
1981-82



Wally Holowack, Grande Cache,
Businessman
1980-83

Christina Jones, McLennan,
Administrator
1981-Present



Jim Kincaid, La Crete/Fairview,
Farmer/Student
1980-82

Josephine Langevin, Lac La Biche,
Businesswoman
1976-80

Romeo Lauzon, La Corey,
Farmer
1980-82

Ike Lawrence, High Prairie,
Automotive Dealer
1973-77
Vice-Chairman, 1978-80

Barry Lazoruk, Rycroft,
Accountant
1980-83
Vice-Chairman, 1983-Present

Jim May, Grande Prairie,
Company Executive
1979-81

Joanne Mitchell, High Level,
Businesswoman
1982-Present

Joe Molho, Swan Hills,
Oil Servicing Contractor
1983-Present

Bill Napier, High Level/Peace River,
Company Executive
1973-75

Dennis Olson, Fort Vermilion,
Teacher
1975-76

Len Pelland, Jr., McLennan,
Electrical Contractor
1973-77

John Porozni, Willingdon,
Farmer
1975-76

Hon. Larry Shaben,
MLA Lesser Slave Lake,
Businessman
1975-79

Henry Sinclair, Slave Lake,
Logging Contractor
1978-80
Vice-Chairman 1980-81

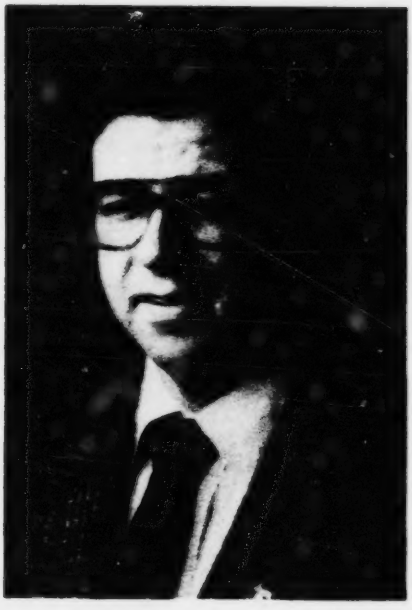
Stan Smith, Fort Vermilion,
Fuel Distributor
1976-80

Mariella Sneddon, Fort McMurray,
Employment Counsellor
1978-80

Hon. Ralph Steinhauer,
Saddle Lake,
Farmer
(Later Lt. Governor of Alberta)
1973-74

Rod Todd, Cold Lake,
Lawyer
1983-Present

Dick Upham, Ashmont,
Farmer/Clergyman
1981-Present



Norm Weiss,
MLA Lac La Biche/McMurray,
Businessman
1979-82
Chairman, 1982-Present

Barbara Wilkinson, Athabasca
Registered Nurse
1980-81
Vice-Chairman 1981-83

Victor Young, Whitecourt,
Postmaster
1982-Present

NORTHERN MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The members of the Legislative Assembly from northern Alberta are the citizens' direct voice in government, and the Northern Alberta Development Council strongly envisions its role as supplementing and complementing that representation.

MLAs are always invited to sit with the Council when public meetings are held in their constituency and Council keeps the various northern MLAs advised of the progress of briefs submitted from their respective areas. The minutes of Council meetings are also widely circulated to northern MLAs, Cabinet Ministers and departmental personnel. Many northern MLAs discuss responses to needs expressed in their areas with Council and Council's support staff, and Council's program and policy advice to Cabinet often receives prior consultation and comment from northern MLAs either directly or through the Chairman. Northern MLAs and Cabinet members are also prominent participants in Council seminars and conferences.

Members of the Legislative Assembly representing areas within the Northern Alberta Development Council boundary during the period under review were:

Hon. J.A. Adair, MLA Peace River, 1971-Present; Minister of Northern Development & Indian/Metis Liaison; Recreation, Parks and Wildlife; Tourism & Small Business

Dr. C.E. Anderson, MLA St. Paul, 1975-79

F.P. Appleby, MLA Athabasca, Deputy Speaker, 1971-Present

Hon. Dr. W.O. Backus, MLA Grande Prairie to 1979, Minister of Public Works

D. Barton, MLA Lesser Slave Lake to 1975

E.E. Borstad, MLA Grande Prairie, 1979-82

Dr. D. Bouvier, MLA Lac La Biche/ McMurray to 1975

Hon. R.W. Dowling, MLA Edson to 1979, Minister of Tourism; Consumer & Corporate Affairs; Business Development & Tourism

J. Drobot, MLA St. Paul since 1982

Dr. C.R. Elliott, MLA Grande Prairie since 1982

A.I. Fluker, MLA St. Paul to 1975

D.A. Hansen, MLA Bonnyville to 1979

Hon. Dr. H.M. Horner, MLA Barrhead to 1979, Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture; Transportation; Economic Development

Hon. E.D. Isley, MLA Bonnyville since 1979, Minister of Manpower

K.R. Kowalski, MLA Barrhead since 1979

Hon. M.E. Moore, MLA Smoky River, 1971-Present, Minister of Agriculture; Municipal Affairs; Transportation

W.G. Notley, MLA Spirit River/Fairview, 1971-Present

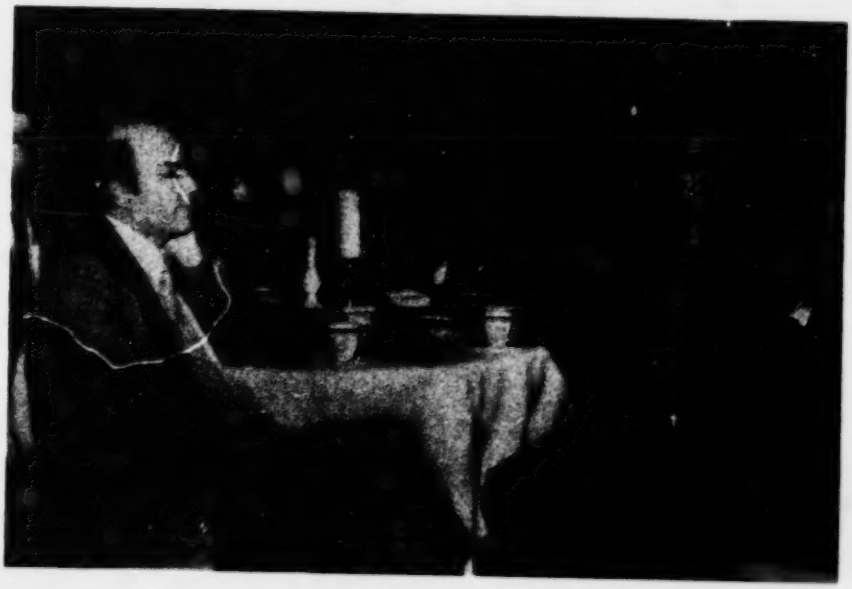
Dr. I.C. Reid, MLA Edson since 1979

Hon. L.R. Shaben, MLA Lesser Slave Lake since 1975, Minister of Utilities & Telephones; Housing

R.J. Tesolin, MLA Lac La Biche/ McMurray 1975-79

Hon. P. Trynchy, MLA Whitecourt, 1971-Present, Minister of Recreation & Parks

N.A. Weiss, MLA Lac La Biche/ McMurray since 1979



COUNCIL MEETINGS, 1973-83

Since 1973, the Council has held regular monthly meetings at various locations in northern Alberta. The meetings have generally taken two forms:

(a) Open public meetings in the evening, followed by a closed Council discussion the next day;

(b) All-day closed sessions.

From April 1, 1973, to March 31,1983 the Northern Alberta Development Council held the following 116 meetings:

**Denotes public meeting for receipt of briefs*

1973	
Nov. 30	Peace River
1974	
Jan. 11	High Prairie*
Feb. 22	Fort McMurray*
Apr. 1	High Level*
Apr. 29	St. Paul*
May 29	Falher*
June 27	Slave Lake*
July 25	Edmonton
Sept. 27	Grande Prairie*
Oct. 20/21	Fort Chipewyan*
Nov. 21/22	McLennan*
Dec. 16	Lac La Biche*
1975	
Jan. 19/20	Manning*
Feb. 16/17	Grande Cache*
Mar. 17	Edmonton
Apr. 20/21	Valleyview*
May 25/26	Athabasca*
June 19	Edmonton (with Premier)
June 24/25	Spirit River*
Aug. 15	Edmonton
Sept. 24/25	Wabasca/Desmarais*
Oct. 22/23	Peace River
Nov. 26-29	Opportunity North Conference, Peace River

1976

Jan. 8/9	Fort Vermilion*
Feb. 12/13	Edmonton
Mar. 18/19	Elk Point*
Apr. 22/23	Grande Prairie
May 20/21	Swan Hills*
June 16/17	Overlander Lodge
July 15/16	Fairview*
Aug. 25	Edmonton
Oct. 20/21	Grouard*
Nov. 24	Fort McMurray (N.E. Commissioner's Advisory Committee)
Dec. 8-10	Northern Transportation Seminar, Grande Prairie

1977

Jan. 26/27	Edmonton
Feb. 10/11	Hythe*
Mar. 9/10	Bonnyville*
Apr. 13/14	Edmonton
May 25/26	Rainbow Lake*
June 16	Trout Lake*
July 14/15	Westridge Lodge
Aug. 16-19	Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Hay River
Sept. 22	Kinuso*
Oct. 19/20	Edmonton
Nov. 9/10	Kikino*
Dec. 16	Edmonton

1978

Jan. 26	Edmonton
Feb. 8	Fort Vermilion (Alberta North Agreement Signing Ceremony)
Feb. 22/23	Grimshaw*
Mar. 29	Edmonton
Apr. 20/21	Sexsmith*
May 24	Edmonton
June 22/23	Anzac*
Sept. 18/19	Boyle*
Oct. 18	Edmonton
Nov. 22	Peace River (with Premier)
Nov. 22-24	Agriculture North Conference, Peace River

1979

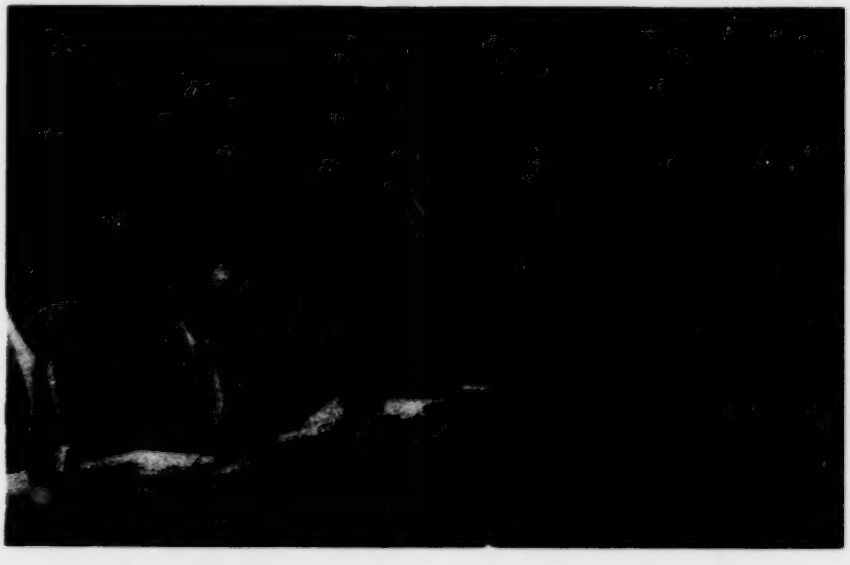
Feb. 9	Peace River
Apr. 25	Peace River
May 29	Edmonton
May 30	Beaverlodge*
June 18	Edmonton
June 19	Smith*
July 17/18	Wandering River*
Aug. 21	Grande Prairie
Sept. 23-26	Margaret Lake
Oct. 16/17	Whitecourt*
Nov. 20/21	Peace River

1980

Feb. 5	St. Paul
Feb. 5-8	Health Needs Workshop, St. Paul
Mar. 3	Peace River
Apr. 15/16	Peace River
May 13/14	Slave Lake*
June 11	Edmonton
July 29/30	Fort McMurray*
July 31	Fort Chipewyan*
Aug. 25/26	Peace River
Sept. 23/24	Lac La Biche*
Oct. 21/22	Grande Prairie
Nov. 20	Grande Prairie (with Premier)
Nov. 20-22	Alberta North in the '80s Conference, Grande Prairie
Dec. 15/16	Peace River

1981

Jan. 19/20	High Prairie*
Feb. 16/17	Peace River
Mar. 24/25	Grande Cache*
Apr. 28	Peace River
Apr. 29	Northern Transportation Review, Fairview
May 25/26	Grand Centre*
May 27	Northern Transportation Review, Bonnyville
June 16	Peace River
June 16-18	Research Review Seminar, Peace River
July 21/23	High Level*
Aug. 19	Edmonton
Sept. 8/9	Rycroft*
Oct. 27/28	Athabasca*
Nov. 17/18	Peace River*
Dec. 15/16	Falher*



1982

Jan. 19/20	Peace River
Feb. 15-17	St. Paul*
Mar. 16/17	Peace River
Apr. 20/21	Hines Creek*
May 18/19	Fox Creek*
May 27	Fort McMurray*
June 21	Athabasca
June 21-23	Adult Education & Training Workshop, Athabasca
July 20/21	Wabasca/Desmarais*
Aug. 17	Edmonton
Sept. 13	Grande Prairie (with Premier)
Sept. 14-16	Wembley*
Oct. 12/13	Grande Prairie
Nov. 16/17	Peace River
Dec. 14/15	Fort Kent*

1983

Jan. 17	Grand Centre
Jan. 17-19	Alcoholism Strategies Workshop, Grand Centre
Feb. 22/23	Manning*
March 29/30	Edmonton

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETINGS
1973 — 1983

● PUBLIC MEETING
More than one meeting is indicated

● CLOSED MEETING
More than one meeting is indicated

● SPECIAL EVENTS

PEACE RIVER - OPPORTUNITY NORTH CONFERENCE, 1975
GRANDE PRAIRIE - NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION SEMINAR, 1976
YUKON / N.W.T. - INTERCHANGE, 1977
FORT VERMILION - SIGNING OF ALBERTA NORTH AGREEMENT, 1978
PEACE RIVER - AGRICULTURE NORTH CONFERENCE, 1978
FORT McMURRAY - NORTHERN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE, 1978
ST. PAUL - HEALTH NEEDS WORKSHOP, 1980
GRANDE PRAIRIE - ALBERTA NORTH IN THE '80s CONFERENCE, 1980
FAIRVIEW AND BONNYVILLE - NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION REVIEW, 1981
PEACE RIVER - RESEARCH REVIEW SEMINAR, 1981
ATHABASCA - ADULT EDUCATION AND TRAINING WORKSHOP, 1982
GRAND CENTRE - ALCOHOLISM WORKSHOP, 1983

Produced by the Alberta Bureau of Surveying and Mapping © 1983

BRIEFS

Between April 1, 1973 and March 31, 1983, the Northern Alberta Development Council held 55 public meetings for the purpose of receiving briefs. Some 937 briefs were received from northern individuals, communities and organizations, identifying over 1,300 individual issues. The briefs covered a broad range of topics from simple tape-cutting exercises to requests for massive investment in roads, parks, lake stabilization, etc. Council spent considerable effort to achieve action on all of the topics of concern, and ensured that every brief was responded to in some satisfactory manner.

The normal pattern involved:

INITIATION

1. Verbal presentation of the brief at a public meeting of Council by a northern resident or representative of a northern group or community.

REVIEW

2. Questioning at the public meeting of the brief originator to ensure full understanding of ideas or concerns expressed.
3. Council review of the written copy of the brief and directions to the Council's support staff as to proper follow-up.

FOLLOW-UP

4. Northern Development Branch enquiry to the department of government concerned, to determine the department's position.
5. Discussion of the department's response by members of Council, and a decision as to whether or not the departmental position and or proposed action was appropriate.

RESPONSE

6. When Council felt a departmental response was appropriate, the Northern Development Branch informed the originator of the brief of the departmental position and Council's review and concurrence.
7. When Council felt a departmental response was inappropriate, or proposed action ill-advised, it directed the Branch to initiate further follow-up in order to obtain clarification or, if possible, a change in position before a response was forwarded to the brief originator.
8. When Council felt very strongly about the lack of an appropriate response from a department after further follow-up, the Chairman was asked to pursue the matter directly with the responsible Minister. The last resort was to place the matter before Cabinet as a whole.

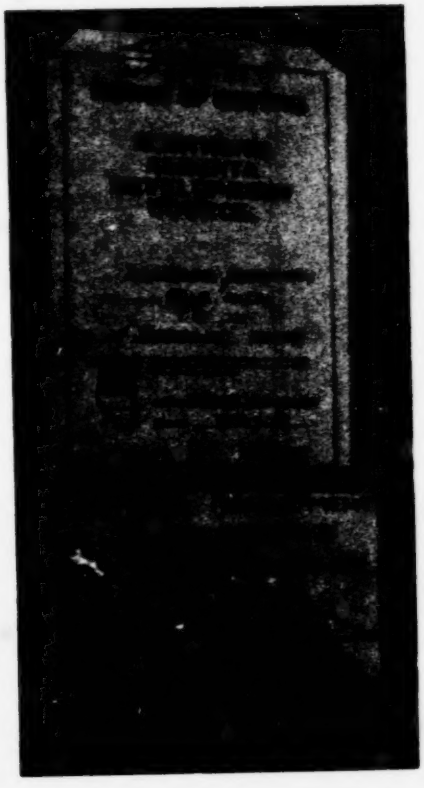


Chart 1 outlines the issues raised at the 55 public meetings held by the Northern Alberta Development Council to March 31, 1983.

CHART 1:
NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETINGS 1973-83

Meeting	Number Of Briefs	Issues Raised
High Prairie January, 1973		general community concerns
Fort McMurray February, 1974	2	employment, local government, Highway 63 extension, recreation, banking, adult education, TV reception
High Level April, 1974	15	water and sewer, alcohol recovery centre, airport, recreation, road improvements, housing, banking, dental services
St. Paul April, 1974	9	land tenure, education, water and sewer, telephone service, road improvements, alcohol and drug abuse centre, penal reforms, airport, commuting employees
Falher May, 1974	7	road improvements, recreation, airport, health services, land tenure, employment, education
Slave Lake June, 1974	11	forestry, water, local government, Opportunity Corps expansion, health services, road improvements, legal aid, recreation, airport, sewage disposal
Grande Prairie September, 1974	9	power rates, art gallery, transportation, NADC representation, Regional Planning Commission
Fort Chipewyan October, 1974	7	airport, high school, water and sewer, TV reception, economic development, freight rates, Fish Co-Op
McLennan November, 1974	13	pollution, decentralization, water and sewer, airport, housing, road improvements, recreation, hospital, road signage
Lac La Biche December, 1974	8	day care, alcohol and drug abuse, recreation, housing, education health care, local purchasing, community newsletter, dental care, decentralization, Syncrude, road improvements

Meeting	Number Of Briefs	Issues Raised
Manning January, 1974	20	ARDA vet clinic, TV reception, school boundaries, recreation, dental care, Preventive Social Services, street paving, freight rates, airstrip, natural gas, teacher retention rates, drainage, water and sewer, government purchasing, transportation, education, electrification, Senior Citizen Centre
Grande Cache February, 1975	8	Highway 40, road improvements, airport, grazing leases, recreation, trucking services
Valleyview April, 1975	9	transportation, government tenders, NADC representation, ecological study, Metis Association, grain handling, banking, street improvements, mobile radio communications
Athabasca May, 1975	13	transportation, farm housing, development plan, recreation, water and sewer, education and health facilities, tourism, special education, housing, Pelleting Plant, waste disposal, Community Association building
Spirit River June, 1975	5	airport, road improvements, education, water and sewer, recreation
Wabasca/ Desmarais September, 1975	19	water, housing, recreation, post office, land tenure, airstrip, road improvements, natural gas, power rates, local industry, social aid, electrification, employment opportunities, NADC representation, local government, dentist, intercultural education, timber, hospital, hunting and trapping, TV reception, tourism
Fort Vermilion January, 1976	29	road improvements, industrial development, tourism, post office, land use, hospital, community pasture, electrification, ARDA vet clinic, natural gas, airport, health services, historic site, TV reception, Human and Economic Development Conference, resident planner, water and sewer, banking, co-terminous boundaries, education, Wood Buffalo Park, ambulance, crown land use
Elk Point March, 1976	17	Habitat, airport, provincial building, fish hatchery, Lakeland College, Catharine Whyte Centre, oil refinery, boat launch facility, cablevision, historic buildings, street paving, heritage centre, further education, recreation, Treaty 6 Commemorations, senior citizen housing, cultural program, Cattle Co-Op, detox centre, development of area, road improvements, special language class, adult education

Meeting	Number Of Briefs	Issues Raised
Swan Hills May, 1976	11	North Peace Gas Co-Op, school boundaries, hospital facilities, mobile dental clinic, highway paving, recreation, street paving, Swan River flooding, industrial development, high school, interest rates, utility rates, wildlife preserve, Heart River Diversion Project
Fairview July, 1976	20	recreation, road improvements, airport, housing, land development, library, nuisance grounds, paving town approaches, Land Use Assignment Committee, Forest Co-op, rail transportation, master parks plan, teacherages, Savanna townsite, building inspectors, economic development, post-secondary education
Grouard October, 1976	13	industrial park, AVC program, Operation Kannachie, Northwest Fish Co-Op, flooding and erosion, transportation, economic development on Indian Reserves, handicraft worker, alcoholism counsellor, social counsellor, tourism
Hythe February, 1977	17	TV reception, power rates, Beaver River flooding, transportation, Travel Alberta, Seed Cleaning Plant, Metis Association, Department of Indian Affairs, nursing beds, labour legislation, arena, land use, toll-free calling, revenue sharing, recreation, nursing service
Bonnyville March, 1977	15	truck route, recreation, Dove Centre, oil royalties, senior citizen centre, historic sites, Agri-Plex, roads, business licenses, tree nursery, Rural and Native Housing Program, land use, fish hatchery
Rainbow Lake May, 1977	15	Highway 58, Hutch Lake, telephone service, education, airport, tourism, recreation grants, drainage, policing, propane prices, decentralization, housing
Trout Lake June, 1977	12	hunting and fishing, road improvements, Bill 29, home care, community pasture, tourism, loading restrictions, water, community workshops, land tenure, Department of Indian Affairs, land claims, Peerless Lake/Graham Lake study
Kinuso September, 1977	8	water quality, homesteading, Spruce Point Park, industrial park, lake stabilization, sewer hookup, Wabasca Development Centre

Meeting	Number Of Briefs	Issues Raised
Kikino November, 1977	20	housing, road improvements, forestry, power lines, recreation, local history, land development, water wells, emergency services and equipment, policing costs, Heart River flooding, agriculture, highway signs, post office, special constables, business development, local government, water control, community newsletters, nuisance grounds, adult education, social programs, natural gas, power rates, Opportunity Corps expansion, annexation, provincial parks
Grimshaw February, 1978	15	health services, road linkages, Planning Act, compensation to trappers, medical facilities, employment opportunities, decentralization, education, toll-free calls, further education, sanitary landfill sites, airstrip, road improvements
Sexsmith April, 1978	9	provincial buildings, Highway 67, water and sewer, telephones, dental services, Preventive Social Services, student accommodation
Anzac June, 1978	17	road improvements, Crown land sales, local government, school and recreation facilities, TV reception, Interpretive Centre, municipal financing, community centre, Gregoire Lake, Habitat Enterprises
Boyle September, 1978	22	road improvements, hospital expansion, fire protection, handicapped facilities, Athabasca University, truck route, annexation, emergency trailers, fur marketing, black fly control, pipeline easements, police protection, trapper compensation, native employment, park development, water and sewer, regional health services, Native Outreach, school facilities, land tenure
Beaverlodge May, 1979	21	Hail & Crop Insurance, fire protection, Athabasca University, community economic development, street paving, hospital services, log housing, Crown land, natural gas supply, medical needs, Freshwater Fish, park development, road improvements, timber development, Bursary Program, sub-divisions, utility costs
Smith June, 1979	12	Highway 67 & 34, lake stabilization, campsites, leases, Berland timber, Opportunity Corps expansion, road improvements, community centre, saw mill financing, water supply, business development

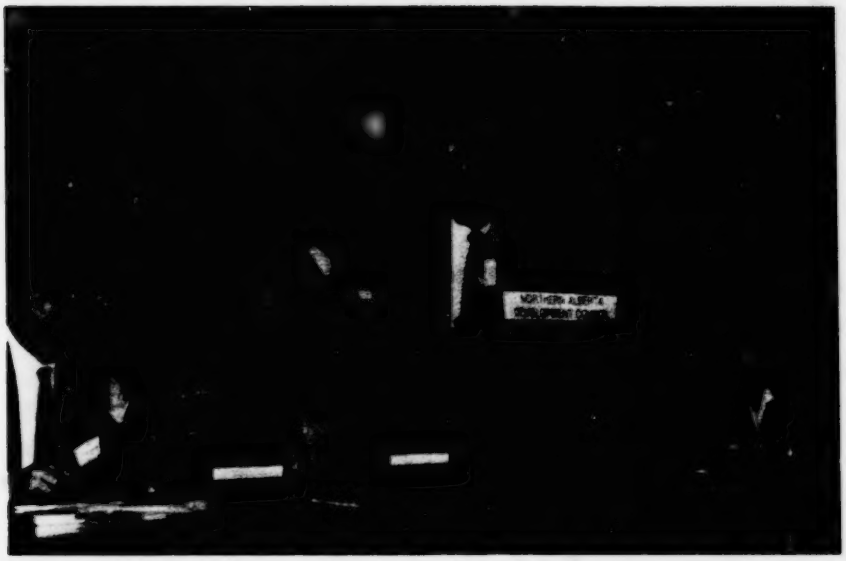
Meeting	Number Of Briefs	Issues Raised
Wandering River July, 1979	14	land tenure, road improvements townsite planning, water and sewer, landfill sites, school facilities, day-care funding, recreation financing, timber leases, housing
Whitecourt October, 1979	15	Chain Lakes development, Native Outreach, bridge lighting, TV reception, government offices, Haig Lake development, recreation costs, hospital facilities, Highway 32, Berland timber, heavy oil development, coal development, resource roads, timber allotments
Slave Lake May, 1980	21	timber allotments, labour requirements, native education, Metis Settlement development, native medical services, social impact assessment, hazardous wastes disposal, Education North, vocational training, public land disposition, Treasury Branch, park development, native employment, Native Friendship Centre funding, local government, truck route, educational taxation, equalized assessments, youth programming
Fort McMurray July, 1980	19	agricultural land, day-care funding, community growth study, road improvements, remote housing, supplementary requisitions, PSS funding, townsite planning, water and sewer, recreation planning, Highway 63, TV reception, telephone services, natural gas supply, acreage development, People of the Oil Sands film
Fort Chipewyan July, 1980	6	transportation links, education services, Tri-milk, native employment, oil sands development, reserve entitlement, recreation development
Lac La Biche September, 1980	29	Janvier sawmill, agricultural land, airport terminals, silica sand development, commercial fishing, community growth study, airport development, lake quality, hunter training, land use, drop-in centres, rural assessment, downtown redevelopment, Highway 36, Lakeland Country, inland fisheries enhancement, lumber marketing, alcoholism concerns, adult education, AVC programming, nursing bursaries, Blue Quills, policing costs, LIDC, land use, park development, Special ARDA
High Prairie January, 1981	31	health clinic funding, recreation, day-care needs, water and sewer, road

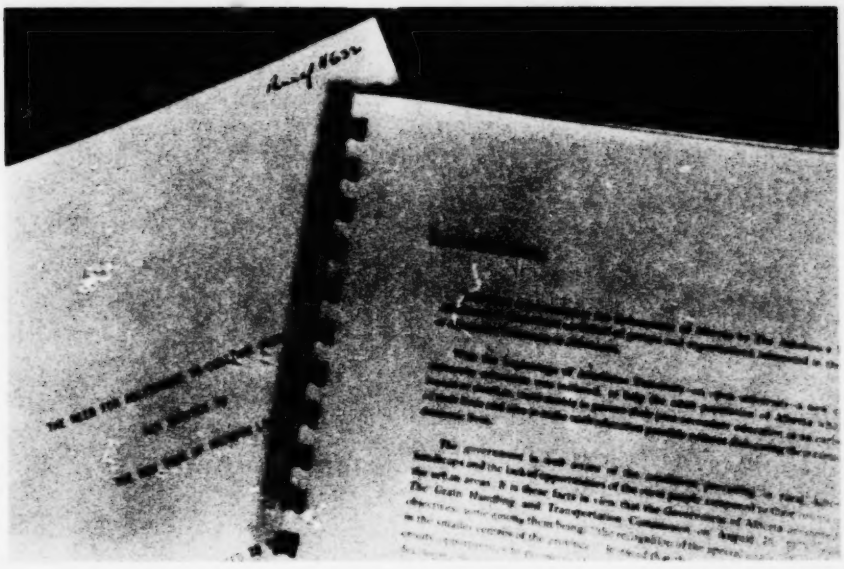
Meeting	Number Of Briefs	Issues Raised
High Prairie (Continued)		improvements, power extensions, nursing schools, manpower turnover, grain marketing, third level air carriers, alcoholism concerns, policing costs, drainage, extended flat rate calling, lake stabilization, lake quality, erosion control, remote economic development, youth centres, halfway houses, juvenile offenders, water and sewer, DREE programming, detox centre
Grande Cache March, 1981	27	college programming, trailer lots, day-care funding, trappers compensation, Metis Settlements, tourism development, wilderness restrictions, counselling services, ECS program, forestry development, manpower development, native employment, mine training school, FCSS funding, training needs, Highway 40, hospital planning, alcoholism concerns, wilderness preservation, grain handling
Grand Centre May, 1981	31	highway rehabilitation, park development, timber quotas, bursary assistance, remote community development, airport needs, fish freight allowance, fish hatchery proposal, battered women's shelter, rural housing, agricultural research, road improvements, trappers' compensation, lakeshore development, airport vicinity protection plan, land use, industrial development, Metis Settlement needs, adult education services to reserves, Lakeland College, resource roads, airport development, day care
High Level July, 1981	38	drainage, aspen pilot plant, apiculture processing, tourism, day care, agricultural development on reserves, new land needs, road improvements, housing needs, ADC committees, power extensions, airport development, transitional housing, small business assistance, recreation funding, police services, air services, provincial building needs, driver examiner services, water quality, natural gas supply, Highway 58 extension, satellite TV, air terminal, ferry upgrading, grain handling, dairy proposal, medical needs, Mental Health Services
Rycroft September, 1981	9	land clearing, Metis Settlement concerns, hunting areas, airship development, community growth study, senior citizen housing, fire protection, Zama City concerns, school taxation, Fairview College, municipal assessments

Meeting	Number Of Briefs	Issues Raised
Athabasca October, 1981	30	local purchasing, bridge development, tourism, day care, truck by-pass, road improvements, fish hatchery, rural gas costs, Athabasca University construction, recreational costs, health unit programs, home care, grazing leases, Smith High School, fish freight allowance, educational funding, sub-divisions, extended flat rate calling, highway lighting, alcoholism workers, community growth study
Peace River November, 1981	14	economic development, northern costs, recreation financing, training programs, indoor swimming pool, satellite TV, water and sewer, industrial training building, trapping programs, road improvements, Highway 64, vocational education
Falher December, 1981	22	Berwyn hospital, FCSS funding, Electric Energy Marketing Act, Navigable Waters Act, road improvements, Northern Woods and Waters Route, trades training facility, water canal, water diversion, municipal water supply, apiculture insurance, recreation funding, power extensions, Highways 64 & 40
St. Paul February, 1982	24	hunting regulations, Treasury Branch, education services, river quality, Friendship Centre funding, native development, lake development, recreation funding, mega-project development, Nursing Home needs, bridge requirements, airport development, museum restoration, agribusiness development, ambulance funding, municipal financing, housing, Metis Settlement concerns, commercial fishing
Hines Creek April, 1982	20	third level air carriers, greenhouses, community growth study, resource roads, grain handling, school bus funding, driver examiner services, water treatment, Workers' Compensation Act, extended flat rate calling, George Lake, health care services, recreation funding, Highway 64, museum development
Fox Creek May, 1982	16	fertilizer plant proposal, water and sewer, road improvements, recreation funding, Green Area land, government services, medical shortages, industrial diversification, cable television problems,

Meeting	Number Of Briefs	Issues Raised
Fox Creek (Continued)		Highway 32, hospital equipment, tourism, oil and gas development, big game ranching, waste heat utilization, traplines
Fort McMurray May, 1982	11	Alsands decision, tourism, local purchasing, housing, land tenure, FCSS, hazardous wastes treatment, union hiring
Wabasca/ Desmarais July, 1982	32	community centre, Keyano College, native courses, Grande Prairie College, grain handling, road improvements, government services, FCSS, homemaker program, community business offices, detox centre, land tenure, power extensions, water and sewer, satellite TV, emergency shelter, economic development, Gulf Pilot Plant, court workers, Northland School Division, fire protection, social services, education needs, community assessment project, municipal taxation housing units, air ambulance, local history, local tendering
Wembley September, 1982	30	livestock marketing, day-care, satellite TV, vet clinic, water diversion, road improvements, tourism, Highway 2, economic development, alcohol treatment centre, social services, truck licencing, grain handling, municipal financing, resource company hiring, FCSS, extended flat rate calling, forest industry concerns, Highway 40, postal distribution, agricultural development, alcoholism concerns, Highway 59
Fort Kent December, 1982	29	satellite TV, cablevision concerns, Highway 686, gravel supply, remote economic development CMHC programs, forestry co-op, hazardous waste treatment, commercial fishing, local purchasing, land use, fire protection, nursing home needs, senior citizen lodges, water and sewer, housing, agricultural development, trapping, handicapped facilities, agricultural concerns, water management, drainage, fish processing, Fish and Wildlife Policy, grain handling, agricultural services, lake development, tourism, Cold Lake waterfront, economic development recreation facilities

Meeting	Number Of Briefs	Issues Raised
Manning February, 1983	42	fire protection, Emergency Call System, satellite TV, recreation facilities, Big Game Hunting Regulations, FCSS, correctional centre, Hutch Lake, vocational education, natural gas pricing, road improvements, northern costs, MacKenzie North programs, adult literacy, Fort Vermilion School Division, municipal financing, information office, detox centre, agricultural land development, Notikewin Park, Energy Marketing Act, Highway 692, mixed farming, grain handling, airport, aircraft repair depot, Highway 58 extension, remote community services, Highway 686 extension, Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre, Lac Cardinal restoration, water diversion, health care facilities, women's shelter





ANALYSIS OF BRIEFS

An in-depth analysis of briefs received by the Northern Alberta Development Council was undertaken covering the period up to December 31, 1981. At that time 585 briefs had been submitted generating over 800 issues. The volume of briefs received per year was fairly constant, with an average of 14 briefs per meeting. The origin of the briefs is shown in Chart 2.

Chart 3 shows the distribution of briefs by region.

CHART 2: BRIEF ORIGINATORS

Community Groups	45%
Municipalities	21%
Agencies	16%
Individuals	10%
Businesses	5%
Other	3%

CHART 3: BRIEFS BY REGION

Athabasca/Bonnyville	25%
Lesser Slave Lake	23%
Grande Prairie/Peace River	20%
Manning/High Level	14%
Fort McMurray/Fort Chipewyan	9%
Grande Cache/Whitecourt	5%
Outside Boundary Area	4%

Chart 4 gives a breakdown of briefs by topic area.

CHART 4:
BRIEFS BY TOPIC AREA

Transportation	22%
Utilities, Water and Sewer	11%
Health, Hospitals, Social Services	11%
Recreation, Parks, Tourism	10%
Economic Development	8%
Education	7%
Municipal Government, Community Planning	5%
Agriculture	3%
Land Use, Leases	3%
Housing	3%
Culture, Historic Sites	3%
Colleges, Training	3%
Other	11%

The method of Council follow-up to the briefs is displayed in Chart 5.

CHART 5:
BRIEF FOLLOW-UP

REFERENCE/CIRCULATION	
– information exchange and/or direct follow-up by the relevant government department	67%
RECOMMENDATION/SUPPORT	
– NADC policy advice to departments, Ministers or Cabinet	15%
RESEARCH/LIAISON	
– extensive NADC background investigation and/or liaison activities with interested parties	14%
FUNDING	
– arranging of budgetary adjustments or gap funding in special cases	4%

Chart 6 displays the status of the briefs received as of the December 31, 1981 analysis.

CHART 6: BRIEF STATUS

PAT	60%
UC	11%
R	29%

PAT –
Positive action taken which wholly or partially solved the concerns expressed

UC –
Under consideration by Government departments

R –
Refusal or no action taken, due to program constraints or unreasonableness of request

The initial response by the Northern Alberta Development Council to the briefs shortly after presentation, showed 32% PAT, 38% UC and 30% R. Therefore, over time, many of the the UC tended to move into the PAT category when government budget allocations and/or program priorities allowed, while the R tended to remain fairly constant.

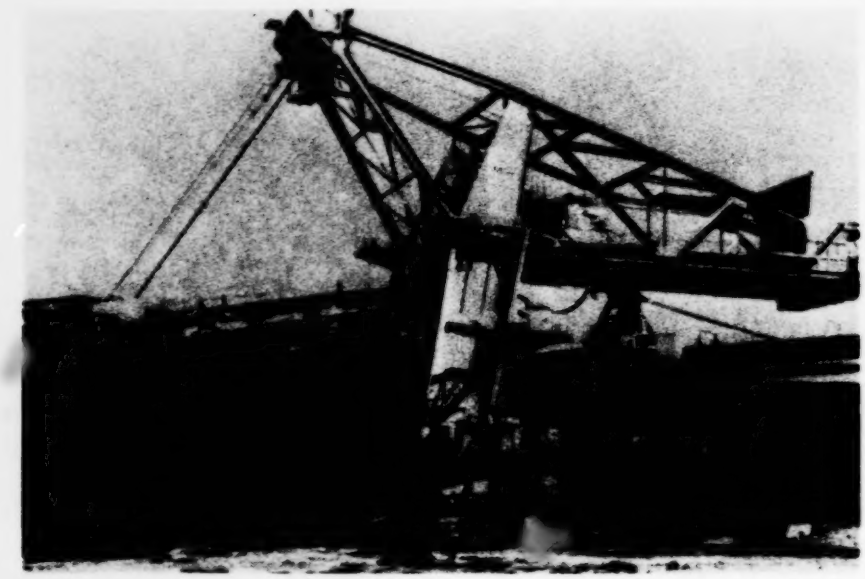
Of the some 800 issues analyzed an average PAT of 60% was achieved to December 31, 1981. Given the wide range and complexity of requests submitted by northern citizens, and the fact that some briefs are still under consideration, achieving positive results in nearly two thirds of the briefs referred to government departments or followed up directly by the Council, is deemed very satisfactory by all concerned.

The analysis appears to indicate the Council's public participation role is definitely assisting in bringing a special emphasis to the particular concerns of northern Alberta.

PROGRAM MONITORING AND POLICY ADVICE

As a result of an activities review meeting with Premier Lougheed on June 19, 1975, the Council has spent considerable time on attempting to move from the specifics of the briefs received to general policy recommendations to help alleviate the concerns expressed. Apart from the general Goals for Programs document, Council had devoted only limited time to general policy advice activities in the first two years, concentrating instead on developing techniques for receiving and responding to briefs.

Since that time, considerable energy has been directed towards the Council's advisory role, both in the form of recommendations to the Provincial Cabinet, and in the form of advice to other bodies and agencies, such as with regard to the Alberta North Agreements. At the present time, Council alternates its scheduled monthly public meetings with closed general discussion sessions. At these closed sessions, programs are reviewed and discussions are held with various departmental managers and private sector representatives. As a result of these discussions and subsequent review meetings with the Premier on November 22, 1978; November 20, 1980; and September 13, 1982, the Council began to publish a series of position papers and background discussion documents for the use of government agencies and the general public of northern Alberta.



GOALS FOR PROGRAMS

In 1975, the Northern Alberta Development Council completed a general Goals for Programs document as a framework for its policy advice to government. A summary of the Goals was widely circulated to elicit comments and suggestions from the citizens of northern Alberta. Comments were also solicited from all Cabinet Ministers. A summary of the original Goals document is set out below. The Council is at present reviewing the document and intends to produce a revised version, based on its ten years of experience.

A. Goals for Economic Development

1. Resource Development

(a) Natural Resources: To encourage development of the natural resources of northern Alberta as markets, technology and availability of capital and labour permit, within the constraints established by conservation and environmental protection policies, and at a rate which will maintain stability.

(b) Good Corporate Citizenship: To promote the concept of "good corporate citizenship" and to make this concept operational in northern Alberta; the concept to include requirements for training and employment of local people, town and regional planning services, as well as conservation and environmental protection.

2. Diversification

(a) Agriculture: To encourage an increase in the variety of agricultural commodities produced and processed in northern Alberta, and to promote off-farm employment opportunities which complement northern farming.

(b) Non-Agriculture: To encourage diversification of other sectors of the northern economy (for example, tourism, forestry, mining) so that a wider range of commodities is produced and so that resources are better utilized.

3. Planning

(a) Resource Communities: To attempt to influence the scheduling of major resource developments, and to stage their construction, so that sufficient time is available for rational design of communities and for provision of housing and other community services.

(b) Land Use Planning System: To encourage the development of a land use planning system for northern Alberta which would incorporate the following features:

- Identification of critical areas which have unique characteristics worthy of preservation
- Resolution of land use conflicts
- Reaction to population growth in an orderly, planned way, so that land and related facilities are available for people as they need them
- Incorporation of appropriate public participation
- Definition of the roles and powers of the various individuals and groups who are interested in a particular land use decision (the owner of the land in question, the people who live in its immediate vicinity, the municipalities in the wider region, and the Provincial Government).

(c) Availability of Planning Expertise: To assist in reinforcing and broadening the capability of the Provincial Government and the Regional Planning Commissions to assist local government, where requested, in planning for the orderly development of their communities and in organizing their financial affairs.

4. Economic Development for People

(a) Establishment of Industries: To encourage the establishment of industries in northern areas where needed by people, both for provision of jobs and as a means for lowering local prices.

(b) Special Needs of Native People: To help the native people of northern Alberta become economically self-sufficient through assistance and management counselling for enterprises owned and operated by natives, and through job training and counselling; at the same time recognizing the special status of Treaty Indian people, their Treaties and their special relationship with the Government of Canada.

B. Goals for Development of Communities

1. Local Decision Making

(a) Local Government – Unorganized Communities: To encourage the establishment of a system of local decision making, coupled with necessary financial resources and special leadership training programs, to enable unorganized communities who desire local government to have more control over the affairs of their communities, and to provide services to their people.

(b) Local Government – Unorganized Areas: To encourage a review of the need to establish a method whereby people in the sparsely settled Improvement Districts can, as a stage in their possible transition to more formal status, move beyond the existing Advisory Committees in an arrangement which will give them a

greater degree of control over the planning and decision making for their area.

C. Goals for Development of Education

1. Elementary and Secondary Schools

To reinforce the need for curricula appropriate to northern living, to strengthen local school autonomy, and to encourage additional funding and more varied resources where applicable.

2. Post-Secondary

(a) Regional Colleges: To reinforce the capability of the Regional College system to provide continuing education appropriate to Northern Alberta, by encouraging the recruitment and development of staff with northern expertise, and the use of curricula oriented towards the north.

(b) University Programs: To reinforce the capability of present Alberta universities to serve northern students and to prepare people with professional expertise needed in the north, through appropriate on-campus university programs, through courses offered for credit in the north, and through special support to northern university students.

3. Vocational Training

(a) Vocational Training Centres: To encourage the expansion and, where necessary, adjustment of the system of Alberta Vocational Centres, to ensure that their size, structure and programs are appropriate to northern conditions, and that they can serve northern people adequately in career development and job placement.

(b) Training-on-the-Job: To work with industry to develop a system of on-the-job training that will help northern people take advantage of industrial and economic opportunities.

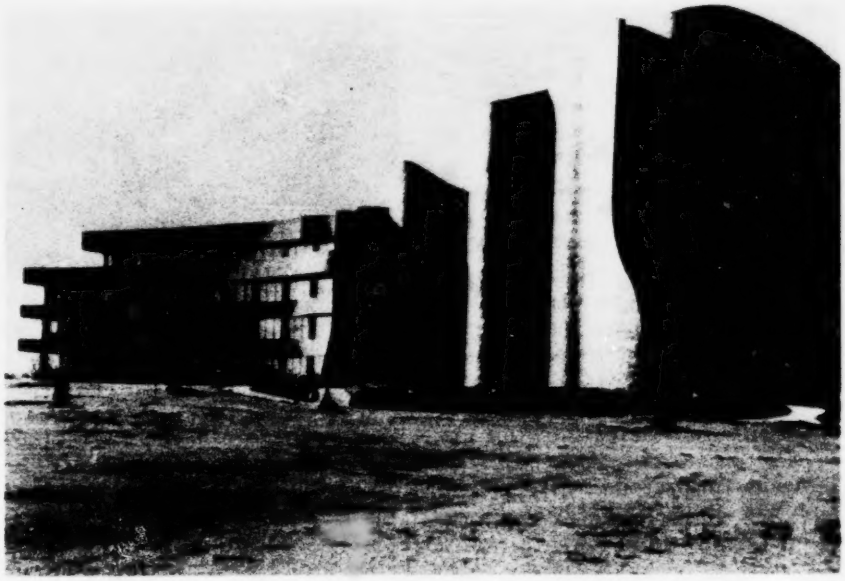
D. Goals for Development of Government Services

1. Health Services

(a) Treatment Facilities: To encourage the continuing improvement in the treatment of physical and mental illness of northern people by increasing the number of doctors, public health nurses, dentists, optometrists and other medical personnel available; by increasing the number of hospital beds and improving hospital facilities; and by improving techniques for evacuating the sick from isolated areas.

(b) Prevention: To advocate an increase in the amount of resources devoted to prevention of physical and mental illness through public education; through better housing, water and sewage facilities; and through school lunch programs, with particular emphasis on involvement of local people.

(c) Alcoholism and Drug Abuse: To encourage an increase in the amount of resources devoted to dealing with problems associated with the



abuse of alcohol and other drugs, to the end that persons suffering from such abuse may be adequately treated and, by every means possible, the incidence of these problems may be reduced through prevention.

2. **Community Services**

   (a) Law Enforcement: To encourage a continuing review of the northern law enforcement system, including such aspects as policing, legal aid and counselling, community legal services, probation, parole and aftercare, institutions and diversionary programs, and employment of northern people within correctional and other institutions.

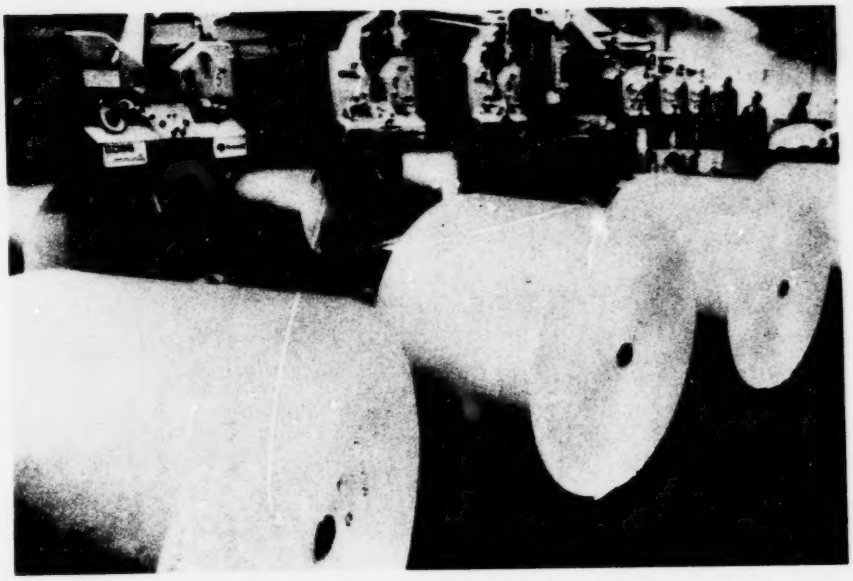
   (b) Housing and Household Amenities: To encourage expansion and improvement of programs to provide housing, healthy water supply, and modern sewage disposal to communities. Essential to this goal is the provision of counselling services where applicable.

   (c) Recreation and Culture: To encourage an increase in the availability of recreational and cultural facilities and personnel for communities, by increasing levels of support and by exploring multiple uses for public buildings.

   (d) Transportation and Communications: To encourage an increase in the rate of development and improvement of transportation and communications services in northern Alberta, especially for the communities which are substantially isolated.

3. **Program Delivery System**

   (a) General Service System: To continuously explore ways of improving the design, implementation, efficiency and the co-ordination of all programs so that they are relevant to northern Alberta and so that the people of the north enjoy a level of service approaching that of the more densely populated south.



   (b) Government Field Staff: To encourage the rationalization of the area boundaries used by various government departments and agencies which employ field personnel in the north, and to explore methods of combining functions of field personnel so that a better distribution is achieved in northern Alberta.

4. **Communications Between Government and People**

   (a) Northern Alberta Development Council: To maintain the Northern Alberta Development Council as a communications link between the northern people and government; to have it meet frequently at various northern locations to discuss and comment on government activities in the area, to hear briefs from local people, and to recommend responses to problems.

   (b) Information Officers: To promote decentralization of government program delivery personnel and assist all existing field personnel in the adequate provision of information to government on local conditions and the local point of view; and to assist local people to make the most of available local government services.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN ALBERTA

In December, 1977, the Council released a position paper concerning the economic development of the north. A brief resume of the paper is outlined below:

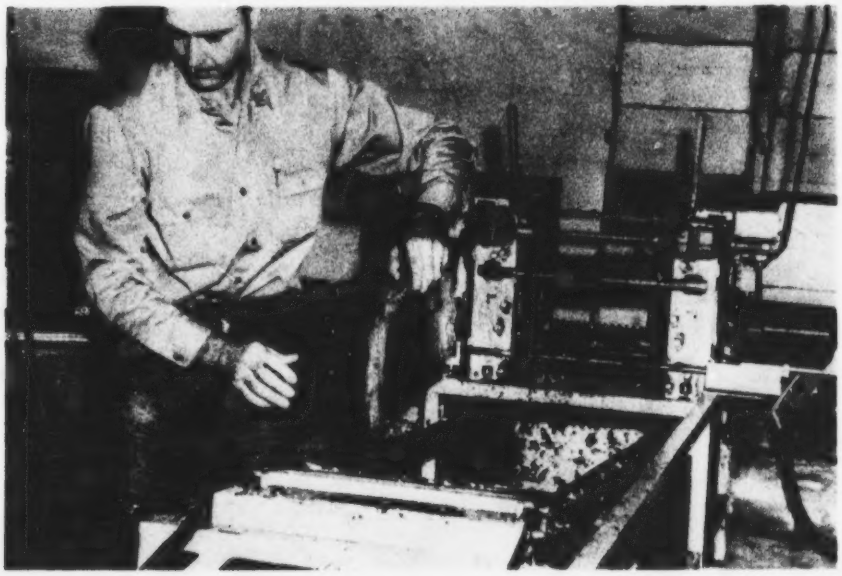
Introduction

The purpose of the document and Council's role in addressing the northern economy are discussed. References are made to the economic differences between northern and southern Alberta: lower incomes, higher cost of living and construction. Premier Lougheed's key remarks made at the Opportunity North Conference (Peace River, November, 1975) are quoted concerning the choice northerners must make regarding government involvement.

The Philosophy of Northern Economic Development

This section discusses the fundamentals involved in a proposed economic development strategy for the north:

1. Economic Goals for Northern Alberta: The Meaning of Balanced Growth – the importance of maintaining a unique quality of life in the north, while at the same time promoting balanced and orderly economic growth.



2. Strengths and Weaknesses in the Northern Economy – strengths of the north include resources, transportation corridors and opportunity. Economic weaknesses include costs, infrastructure problems, small market concentrations and transportation.
3. The Role of Government – by being a major land owner, Government influences development through regulations and techniques designed to create a healthy economic climate.

Nature and Application of Development Tools

This section provides a more specific description of the techniques the Council feels Government should employ to assist northern economic development. It describes four main areas of program possibilities:

1. Technical Support – mostly through resources of government staff and expertise.
2. Research and Development – expertise provided through government funds to provide feasibility research for potential industry.
3 Infrastructure – the location of industry is influenced by the infrastructure available; as infrastructure is provided there is more likelihood that industry relocations occur.
4. Financial Incentives – the loan is the basic incentive plan recommended by Council. However, there are situations when special assistance and tax incentives may apply, if the social and economic gains merit the special government program. Established businesses should not be damaged by specific industries which may require initial assistance.

Conclusion

The main concerns of Council are re-emphasized: economic disparities and the costs of establishing an economic base in the north. It is noted that northerners themselves have a responsibility to explicitly state their real needs in a coordinated fashion, while at the same time not making endless demands upon the public purse. Government can assist in development in partnership with the efforts and planning of northern Alberta residents.

The document concludes by asking for reaction and feedback to the ideas and suggestions of the Council.

AGRICULTURE IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

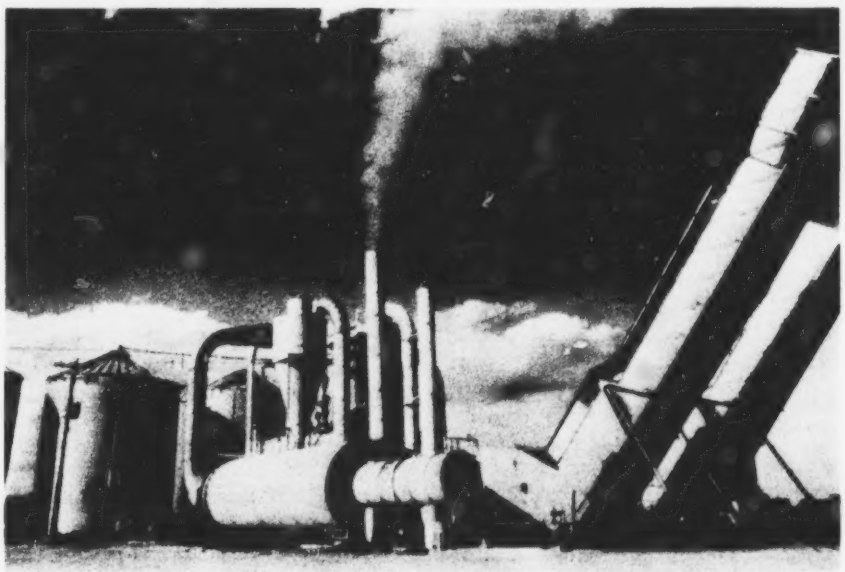
As preparation for the Agriculture North Conference, the Council produced a discussion paper in September, 1978, outlining the background of a number of current issues and concerns regarding northern agriculture.

The first section of the report documents the statistical base of the present northern agricultural situation and details the changes that have occurred since 1961. It then presents trends and current issues and concerns.

Some of the basic topics which were discussed in the second section, in summary were:

Agricultural Processing and Marketing Facilities

The development of additional processing and marketing facilities



in northern Alberta is seen to be impeded by a lack of facilities which cannot be built until supply increases, and supply will not increase without facilities. This is a common situation in northern Alberta, and it seriously affects a whole range of possible economic opportunities.

Off-Farm Employment

Despite the difficulties, a significant number of farmers in northern Alberta rely on off-farm work for supplementary income. Off-farm work generally takes place in the oil and lumbering industries.

Agricultural Research

Research has always been a key component of agriculture, but it is vitally important in northern Alberta. Good northern agricultural research dramatically improves the extremely slow and costly process of trial and error which has often characterized the way in which agricultural improvements have been made in the past.

Agricultural Extension

The development of an extension concept directly attuned to northern Alberta has been advanced by Alberta Agriculture. The purpose of this concept would be two-fold: first to develop methods of extension appropriate to northern areas, and secondly, to train both extension officers and the farming community in their use.

Agricultural Land Issues

- Further Northward Expansion

  Government policy on new land, at present, means opening small parcels at the edge of existing developed areas. The problem is, however, that fringe areas are notoriously difficult to service and maintain because they become further and further removed from service centres.

- Land Prices and Agricultural Value of Land

  The Northern Alberta Development Council recognizes that land pricing is a very complex issue which is difficult to solve. However, for the affected areas in northern Alberta, a partial solution lies in improving the economics of northern farming through applied research.

- Lime for Acid Soils

  A large portion of the crop area in northern Alberta requires a lime application to sustain productivity. However, the problem is compounded by high prices due to the lack of a good local supply of lime.

- Land Development and Drainage

  Clearing land in northern Alberta requires an interlink between systems to drain an individual farm and regional systems. For farmers near river valleys, natural erosion and slumping has a severe effect on agricultural production, especially since topsoil is generally shallow throughout the affected area.

- Community Pastures

  Ten of the nineteen provincial grazing reserves are located in northern Alberta. In addition, there are about thirty grazing associations in northern Alberta, compared to fifty in the rest of the province. Northern farmers seem generally satisfied with the availability of community pastures.

Farm Credit

The availability and use of credit is identified as a major area of concern for northern farmers. Problems have arisen due to inadequate

accounting systems and the tendency for debt counselling to be initiated only when a farmer's situation is beyond help.

Mixed Farming

The theory behind mixed farming is that a farmer who produces several products is not absolutely tied to the fluctuating fortunes of any one of them. The mixed farmer may miss the opportunity to make very large profits in years when prices for one product are very strong, but he also avoids the years of large losses when they are weak. This is particularly important to northern farmers with a large portion of debt and other fixed commitments.

Transportation

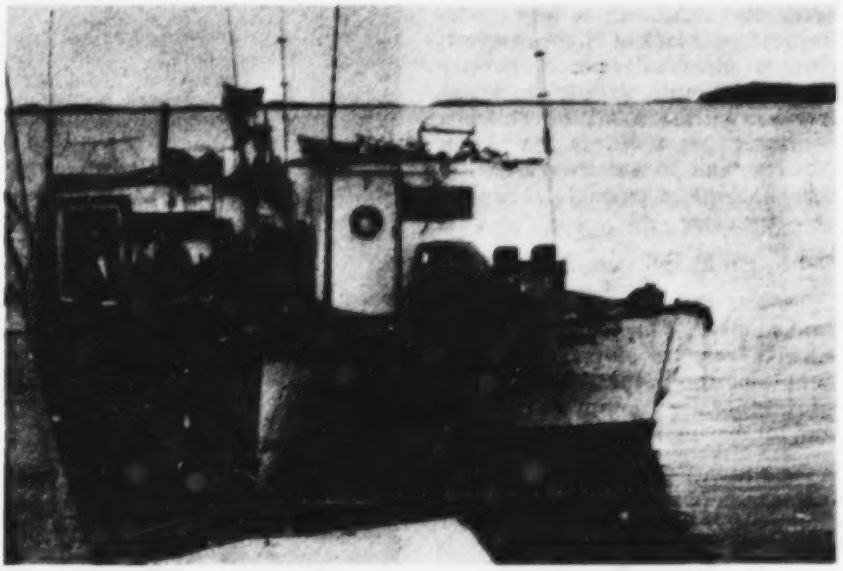
A good transportation system is essential to agricultural development in northern Alberta. Distances are a significant handicap, but the burden would have been impossible had not substantial improvements in the transportation network been made during the past number of years. However, off-track grain-handling facilities are still needed in some areas.

FISHING IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

The overall objective of this position paper, prepared in October of 1979, was to assess the issues in commercial and recreational fishing in northern Alberta and recommend changes for consideration by the Legislature's Select Committee on Fishing. The Council recommendations reflect the views expressed by northerners through various briefs and a detailed set of interviews conducted by Northern Development Branch staff.

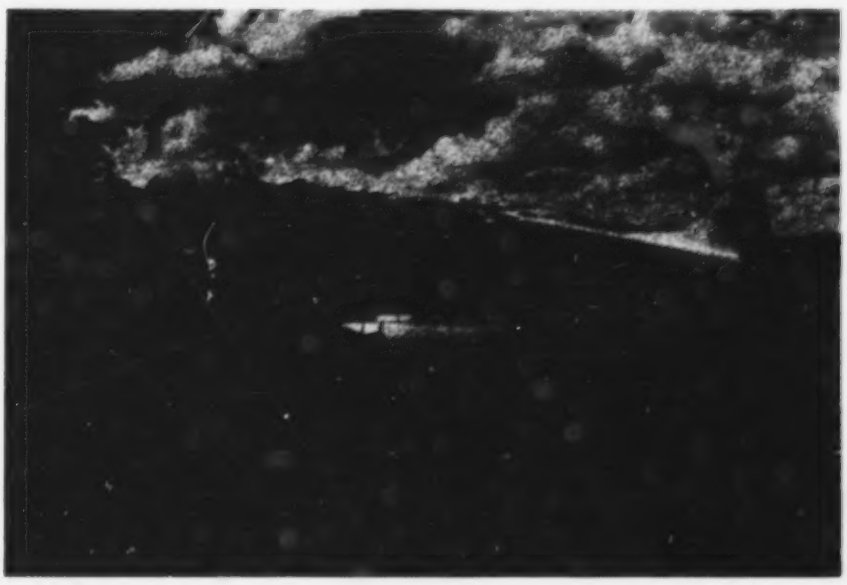
Principal Findings

- 75% of Alberta's commercial fish production comes from northern Alberta.
- Commercial fish production in northern Alberta is close to maximum.
- The income of commercial fishermen who try to make fishing a vocation is low and overhead continues to rise.
- Alberta's commercial fish production represents only 5% of the total of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. This small amount leads to difficulties in influencing policies of the Corporation.
- Association with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation has been questioned by some northern Alberta fishermen.
- Recreational fishing is of high economic importance to northern Alberta.
- Increased pressure from industry, land development, and non-consumptive recreational activities has caused a deterioration of fishing habitat.
- Only one fish hatchery exists in Alberta; this deters efforts to restock lakes or conduct aquaculture.



Recommendations

- For the present, Alberta should continue membership in the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, but should attempt to bring about:
  - Changes to prices and packing fees paid
  - Utilization of rough fish



  - Changes in policy regarding local sales of fish.
- Changes must be made to the commercial licencing regulations to limit numbers of fishermen.
- Training should be provided for fishermen to increase efficiency of operation.
- A freight allowance should be considered by the Provincial Government for commercially-caught fish.
- Aquaculture should be encouraged.
- The integrated management planning process should be expanded with a view to:
  - Maintaining lake standards
  - Increasing tourist facilities
  - Controlling land development
  - Making land management a concentrated effort.
- A preventive approach to lake maintenance should be utilized instead of a rehabilitative approach.
- Fishing regulations should be changed respecting:
  - Spawning time
  - Wild rivers
  - Equipment.
- A fish rearing facility should be established in northern Alberta.
- Surveillance of the effects of resource development must be continued.

HEALTH NEEDS IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

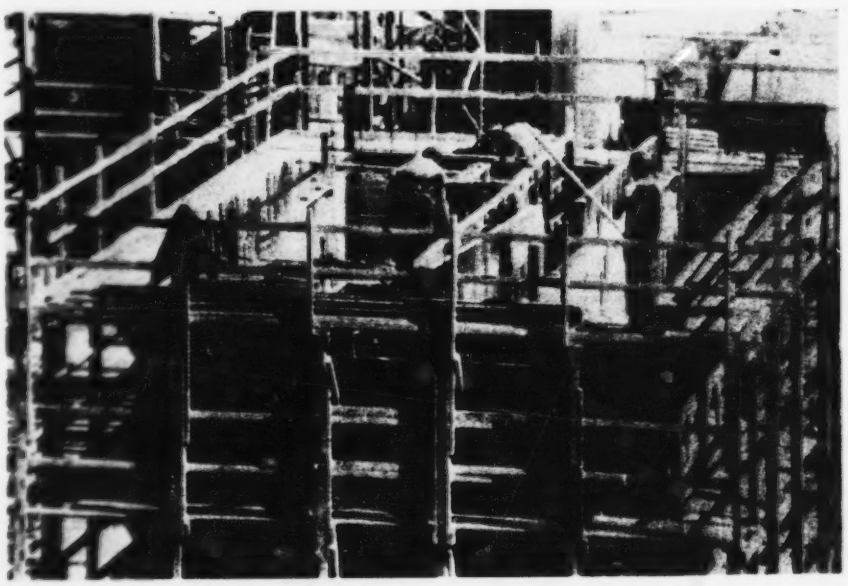
In February, 1980, the Council released an extensive review as part of a public participation process to formulate recommendations on northern health needs for consideration by the Provincial Government.

Background

The document attempted to establish a starting point for planning by providing baseline information and options to be considered by delegates to a major review workshop.

The overall objective of the report was to identify gaps in health delivery services by using a Demand-Need-Supply model with a view to improving health care and attracting and retaining health care professionals. A model was constructed which allowed for a systematic assessment of morbidity and mortality data and of oral statements of demand for services. A contrasting data set consisted of a review of facilities and manpower available to northerners. Major review areas covered:

- Hospitals
- Medical Personnel
- Primary Care
- Community Medicine
- Nursing
- Children
- Women
- Elderly
- Handicapped
- Alcoholism
- Mental Health
- Health Care Complexes
- Tuberculosis
- Speech & Hearing
- Home Care
- Occupational Safety
- Dental Health
- Emergency Evacuation
- Infrastructure
- Lifestyle Education
- Health Manpower & Training



Needs

From the summary tables, certain needs or gaps in health care delivery became discernable. Among those noted were:

- There are varying needs in the four major community types in northern Alberta: developing secondary centres, rural-based small towns, undeveloped areas, and boom towns.
- There is a drainage of population, health personnel, and resources toward secondary centres, which is not likely to be reversed.
- Health manpower to population ratios are low for most northern areas.
- Mental health services, and treatment facilities and programs for alcohol problems are major issues for many communities.
- The elderly are under-serviced to the extent they often cannot easily receive primary or nursing home care in the more aging communities.
- Hospitals in larger northern centres may not meet the needs of the estimated growth in population, and some hospitals in smaller communities are of questionable viability.
- The need for integrated primary care is high in many mid-size communities.
- In some rural and undeveloped northern communities, infrastructure items such as roads, and water and sewage treatment need to be addressed.
- Children and women form two important target groups for whom support services may be lacking.
- Indians and Metis have special needs (for example: alcohol rehabilitation, and management for tuberculosis).
- Dental services are particularly inadequate.
- Coordination of services at the local and central level is needed.

The report concludes with a detailed discussion of health care delivery strategies for northern Alberta and practical measures for improvement. It covers numerous specific topics such as facilities and programs, emergency evacuation, coordination, specialists, travelling teams, the problems of servicing isolated communities and trends in hospital indices.

INVENTORY OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR NORTHERN COMMUNITIES 1980

In releasing an infrastructure inventory in April, 1980, it was Council's intention that the report serve residents of northern Alberta and those with programming responsibilities in the north as an easy-to-reference compendium of current information on facilities, services and living conditions in northern communities. The Inventory contains an introductory overview, detailed community infrastructure summaries for 97 northern communities and a capsule of the NADC population and area.

Community Infrastructure

Section One of the report outlines services and facilities on a community-by-community basis. Each separate community page begins with background data, municipal status and current population, and includes specific information on water, sewer, waste disposal, utilities, communications, transportation, health services, education, recreation, police protection, fire protection, local government and resident government offices. The facilities and services listed are those completed and in place as of March 31, 1980. Planned or intended projects were not included.

Level of Services

Section Two groups the communities into summary tables according to availability of, or accessibility to, services/facilities. The various charts display that at the time the north contained 1 City, 21 Towns, 5 New Towns, 15 Villages and 36 Hamlets of over 75 in population. The largest centres were Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Peace River, Whitecourt, St. Paul, Grand Centre and Slave Lake. Sixty-two of the 97 communities had paved main access roads and only four had no all-weather road access. Sixty-one had scheduled bus service. Fifty-eight were on rail transportation, but the only existing passenger rail service was between Lac La Biche and Fort McMurray. Eight northern communities had scheduled air service, although there were 25 paved and lighted airstrips, ten with terminal buildings.

Electricity for residential purposes was available in every community, and 61 had access to piped natural gas. Fifty-five communities reported a full community water supply by piped distribution, while all of the remaining 42 had potable

water, although respondents identified varying levels of servicing related to ease of access. A similar 55 communities had piped sewage disposal.

Local hospitals were located in 25 of the communities and 27 had resident ground ambulance services. Thirty communities contained a resident doctor; however, only 18 had practicing dentists. Health Units covered all of the area with 27 community offices. Grades 1-12 were offered in resident schools in 40 communities and only 17 communities had to rely on external bussing for all grades.

All northern communities reported access to telephone service and most indicated ease of access to a provincial source of printed news. Twenty-five have weekly newspapers; two daily. All can receive radio, although with regard to television, 29 receive only one channel and six have no access. With regard to safety services 27 have resident police detachments, and 57 maintain a resident fire brigade.

The report indicated three servicing levels: one was the typical full city services to be found in Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray, and second were some 25 northern communities between 1,000 and 5,000 in population possessing most, if not all, of the necessary services and facilities. The remaining 40% of the communities revealed a level of servicing described as minimal but, in most cases, adequate, given the population base. With ongoing government funding support it appears most northern communities will continue to move up the scale of servicing. The Northern Alberta Development Council concluded the section by noting that over the last decade, the provincial commitment to assist established communities in the upgrading of services essential for basic health and safety was well on its way to completion.

Area Summaries

Section Three of the report provided supplementary tables capsulizing area and population data within the NADC boundary, including separate listing for Indian Reserves and Metis Settlements.

The infrastructure inventory is in widespread use throughout the north and it is the Council's intention to update the document every five years.

TRENDS IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

The purpose of this August, 1980 statistical overview was to present information relating to social and economic change in the Northern Alberta Development Council area during the period of 1971-79. Trends in northern Alberta was initially used as background information for delegates at the NADC-sponsored Alberta North in the '80s Conference held in Grande Prairie in November of 1980. It has since been used widely as a statistical reference on the north.

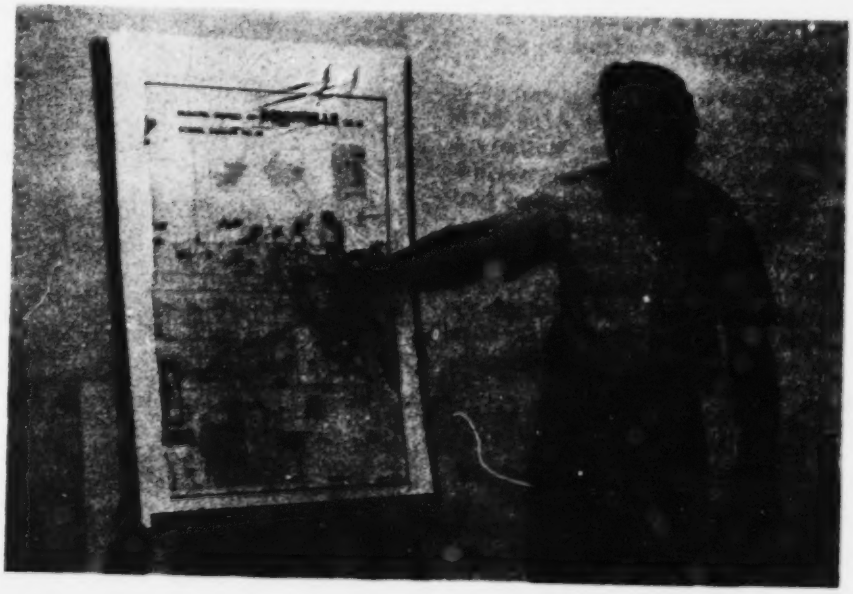
Trends in northern Alberta was compiled at a time when an unprecedented number of new industrial projects was being located or contemplated in northern Alberta (primarily because of the region's immense wealth of natural resources) and an increasing number of localized impacts was becoming evident. The overview is an attempt to make available statistical data to allow northern Albertans to more precisely gauge various economic, social and environmental consequences. In addition, the data provides the necessary background information to permit evaluation of frequently-appearing forecasts and projections.

The beginning of the 1980s was also an appropriate time to review the quality of life in northern communities. The document contains detailed information relative to the degree of development northerners have experienced during the last decade.

Each of the 15 chapters includes text, illustrations and tables. Some of the key trends indicated were:

Population and Area

- Approximately 10% of Albertans live within the NADC boundary, which covers 60% of the province's surface area, giving a population density of only 0.5 persons per square kilometre.
- The area's population growth rate, 1971-79, was 3%, compared to the provincial average of 2.8%, and nine communities had growth rates of 5% or more.
- Rural population declined from 59.6% in 1971 to 47.3% in 1979, and urban growth resulted in 22.9% of the north's population located by 1979 in the two centres of Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie alone.
- Most of the rural area is governed by Improvement Districts (93.7%) with lesser amounts under Counties (3.5%), Municipal Districts (2.1%) and 67 Indian Reserves (0.6%); all eight Metis Settlements are located in the area.



Vital Statistics & Demographic Characteristics

- In contrast to the rest of Alberta, the north has a young age-group profile and the dependency ratios are much higher, reflecting the high live birth rate of 21 per thousand.
- Family size has decreased over time but on average is still higher than the provincial average.
- The death rate, particularly infant deaths, shows a marked decline; causes of death above the provincial average were attributed to cancer, accidents, suicides and violence.

Agriculture

- As elsewhere, the number of farms in northern Alberta is decreasing; however, unlike the rest of the Province, the north is increasing the number of hectares under production owing to extensive new land development.
- Approximately one-fifth of the region's population are farmers, as compared to one-tenth in the province as a whole.
- Part-time farming is a significant phenomenon.
- The north contains approximately 20% of the provincial crop land. Principal field crops include barley, hay, wheat, canola and oats.
- Cattle and calves reflect a marked increase, although they are still only 10% of the provincial total.
- Net farm income in the north rose dramatically during the 1970s.

Forestry, Fishing and Trapping

- Eight of the 10 provincial forests lie in the area, with an underutilization in potential annual yield.
- At the end of the period, the Northern Alberta Development Council area contained 15 major sawmills and a pulp and paper complex at Grande Prairie.
- 80% of the commercial fishing for the province exists in the area, with four packing plants.
- Approximately three-quarters of the registered trappers are in northern Alberta.

Energy

- Conventional crude oil production over the period declined from 44.5% of provincial production to 40.1%, while gas reserves increased considerably.
- Non-conventional oil potential was enhanced to an in-place volume of 156 trillion cubic metres.
- The only coal mine in the area, at Grande Cache, accounted for approximately 25% of provincial coal production during the period.
- Electricity generation increased steadily.

Industrial Projects

- The value of capital projects in the north increased significantly from 1971-79.
- The forest products industry created the most employment, with the building of a large pulp and paper mill, sawmill planer complexes and mills to produce veneer and waferboard.
- The petroleum area was second, with oil pipelines, natural gas processing plants, gas gathering and compression facilities, heavy oil experimental plants and the significant Syncrude facility.

- Agricultural processing was third, with plants established for rapeseed, alfalfa, animal feed, meat products, fish, fluid milk and honey.
- During the period, the mega-project phenomenon exhibited wide-ranging impacts on both the regional economy and local communities.

Manufacturing and Construction

- Owing to the closure of many small sawmills, this area showed a decline from 1971-79, to 5.4% of the provincial total.
- Building permit value rose 1400% and residential housing starts increased significantly.

Retail and Service Trade

- Retail trade rose to 9.4% of the provincial average, while service trade remained at 7% reflecting a lower than expected share, given that the area contains 10% of the provincial population.
- Tourism was an increasingly significant factor accounting for 1/3 of the accommodation industry establishments in the province by 1979.

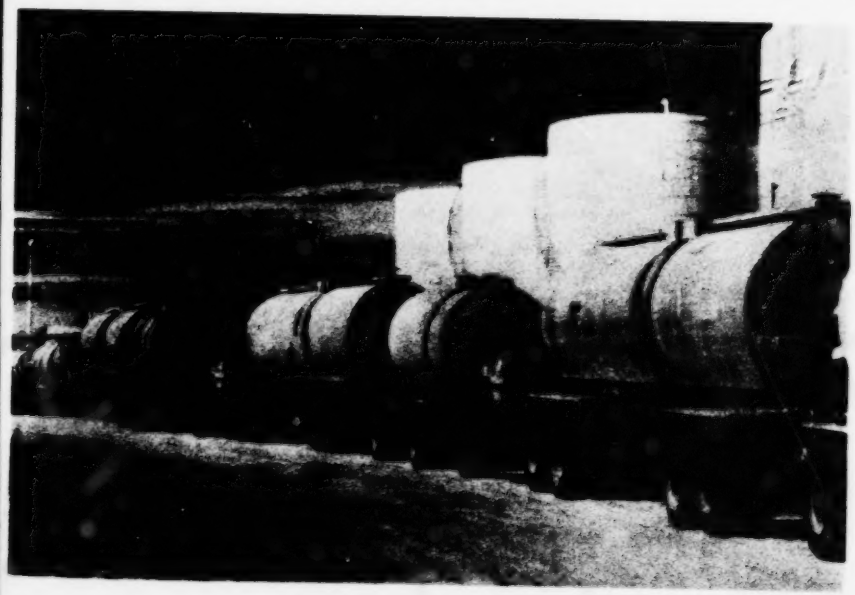
Transportation

- Transportation continued to be vital to the north, given the great distances, the harsh climate and sparse population distribution.

- Impressive progress was made in road construction and air service facilities.
- There were substantial rail freight volume increases, although grain delivery showed only a moderate increase to 13.7% of provincial delivery.
- Aircraft movements in the area doubled from 1971-79.
- Water transportation declined substantially.

Labour Force & Income Tax Statistics

- 34% of the north's employed labour force remained in the primary industries, as compared to the provincial average of 17%.
- 17% were employed in secondary industries, versus 25% for the province.
- 40% were employed in tertiary production, versus 51% in Alberta.
- Northern Alberta was below the average in all highly qualified manpower occupations and above the average in farming, forestry and mining.
- Northern census division income figures continued to be consistently less than the provincial average.
- Cost of living figures tended to be significantly higher in a number of northern locales.



Housing

- Housing ownership and the proportion of detached dwellings remained fairly consistent with provincial averages, except for a lower figure in Fort McMurray.
- The portion of apartment rentals tended to be somewhat higher, especially in the fast-growing communities.

Justice

- Similar to the rest of Alberta, criminal offenses in the north showed an increasing trend in both stable and rapid growth communities.

Social Services

- During the period, public assistance in the north declined as a percentage of the provincial caseload.
- Treatment and client services increased in the area of alcohol and drug abuse.

Medical Services

- Northern hospital bed capacity increased as a portion of the provincial average as did senior citizen housing.
- Medical and dental professionals remain consistently below provincial averages, with very few specialists.
- No psychiatric services are available in the north.

Education

- In contrast to the rest of the province, the number of students in the north rose, as did the pupil/teacher ratio.
- There was a dramatic increase in the number of vocational and post-secondary students from 1971-79.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF NORTHERN ALBERTA

A comprehensive report on the socio-economic conditions, needs and service delivery programs in Northern Alberta was completed by the Northern Alberta Development Council in April of 1981. The document focusses on topics of social and economic importance to residents of northern Alberta as indicated by northerners, knowledgeable government officials and in recent literature. It also includes a perspective on future directions for government programs in the north. The report begins with a history of northern Alberta from the time of the fur trade and presents a discussion of several major development theories in relation to underdeveloped areas and to northern Alberta. A description of the economic development of northern Alberta from the early 1900s to the present attempts to delineate some of the problems in the northern economy.

The following is a brief summary of some of the important points in Chapters 5-8.

Northern Features

- The north is geographically vast, and the distance between communities and to southern centres is great.
- Physical infrastructure is not as well developed as the south.
- East-west road connections are almost non-existent and air travel is a major, expensive form of communication and transportation.
- Sub-regions are very distant and differ greatly from each other; regions do not always coincide with political or government service boundaries.
- It has a high proportion of native people, many of whom live in very small communities.
- The north has high freight costs, and there is more expense involved to provide services in the north than in the south.
- It contains significant natural resource and hydro-electric development possibilities.
- The north has the largest number of new resource towns.
- The north appears to have one of the highest turnover rates for professionals of all types.
- It has a lower population density and a large number of local residents who frequently travel in and out of the region.
- The north is an area of primary resource development with very little secondary industry.
- Much of the land is government owned and controlled and development is directly connected to government policy and initiative.
- The north has much less local government than does the south.
- It is an area wherein many people feel dependent on others for most services and to make major decisions about their lives.
- The north is perceived as Alberta's last frontier on the verge of great economic opportunities.

The Council's general conclusion, applicable to a description of northern features, is often stated thus. "While the north's specific problems are, for the most part, faced by other Albertans, the north has special conditions that intensify or give a unique flavour to their needs."

Priority Issues

This part of the report reviewed:

- The need for strong local input into regional economic decision-making.
- Awareness of the vulnerability of the north to marked fluctuations depending on the interna-

tional market place for its agriculture, water, forestry, furs, gas, coal and oil.

- The need to resolve Native issues with regard to land tenure and economic and social development.
- Concerns with the quality and availability of education both in the Northland School Division and in various local school districts; dropouts were seen as a serious problem.
- The need to recruit and maintain adequate numbers of professionals in all services in the north. This includes particularly doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists, dentists, social workers, teachers, lawyers, accountants, and medical specialists. Staff inexperience and rapid turnover were also seen as a weak link in implementing many existing government programs.
- A need to maintain and enhance community leadership, particularly in the smaller communities, to effectively utilize available government services or economic opportunities.
- A need in the general area of training. Most northerners call for more training in a wide variety of areas: vocational education, business management, health care, alcoholism counselling, equipment maintenance, and local government. This training is desired both within formal institutions and within the communities themselves.
- In the area of small business development, northerners wish to acquire capital, know-how and technical support in developing businesses of all kinds related to traditional and industrial economic activities.

Government Departments

- Government officials are well aware that they are responsible for all of Alberta and tend to favour programs that are applicable across the province. However, a number of specialized programs have been developed for the north or with northern needs in mind.
- Projects also receive high priority through the budgetary process in areas crucial to northern development.
- The north does appear to be a high priority item for most government departments and considerable staff planning and crisis intervention time is spent in dealing with northern concerns. Another mechanism utilized is to assign high proportions of new staff to northern positions.
- The Northern Alberta Development Council and the Northern Development Branch exercise considerable influence on both the officials and Ministers of the departments. Their work in raising issues and in encouraging government action is well known and complementary to the efforts of local MLAs.
- The existence of potential large-scale economic development projects also gives most parts of the north a high profile for government departments and for industry.

The report concludes that the north appears to be receiving considerable attention from the Provincial Government in many aspects of community and regional life. It was felt that rapid economic growth tends to highlight economic and social problems and while these should not be ignored, they must be seen in some

historical and comparative perspective. The Council noted that policies and programs are in place to deal with most of the northern concerns identified. Industry is also playing its role. What is now needed is a more selective analysis of policies that are not working or services that are not achieving their goals. This selective work needs to continue in partnership with the northern communities and groups.

ADULT EDUCATION & TRAINING IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

In May of 1982, the Council released a report which was to serve as a background analysis for a major workshop on adult education and training. The report provides a review of adult educational programs and vocational and academic education in northern Alberta. A description of adult educational and vocational training needs is outlined, and an in-depth assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the system in the Northern Alberta Development Council area is provided, listing problems and feasible alternatives for improvement.

Data Base and Relative Standing

The first part of the assessment deals with programming availability. It was concluded that a large number of courses are available to serve clients in the north through a broad range of public, private, government and agency institutions. The NADC area was seen to be generously endowed with institutional resources, having only 10% of the population of Alberta, yet 40% of its public colleges and 50% of its Vocational Centres. Excluding the two Institutes of Technology in Edmonton and Calgary (NAIT and SAIT), 42% of all funds for provincially-administered institutions was spent in the NADC area in 1979 80 which had only 28% of the student registrations for provincially-administered institutions.

System Assessment

The second part of the report involves an assessment of the system. The following strengths were found:

- Availability of a broad range of services and programs throughout the NADC area.
- Successful preparation of students for the job market, according to employer comments.
- Public participation in program development and monitoring, through the involvement of individuals on advisory and governing bodies.
- Funding commitments at levels higher than provincial averages.

With regard to weaknesses, the report noted the following needs:

- Off-campus programming, particularly in remote areas of the northwest and the northeast.
- Information on education/training opportunities at the community and individual counselling levels.
- Programming in the area of Native Education.
- Locally available programming in some areas of vocational/trades training.
- Student housing.
- Training allowances.
- Retention of qualified staff.
- Agency funding.
- System structure regarding definition, development, coordination, and establishment or enhancement of planning and needs assessment capabilities.

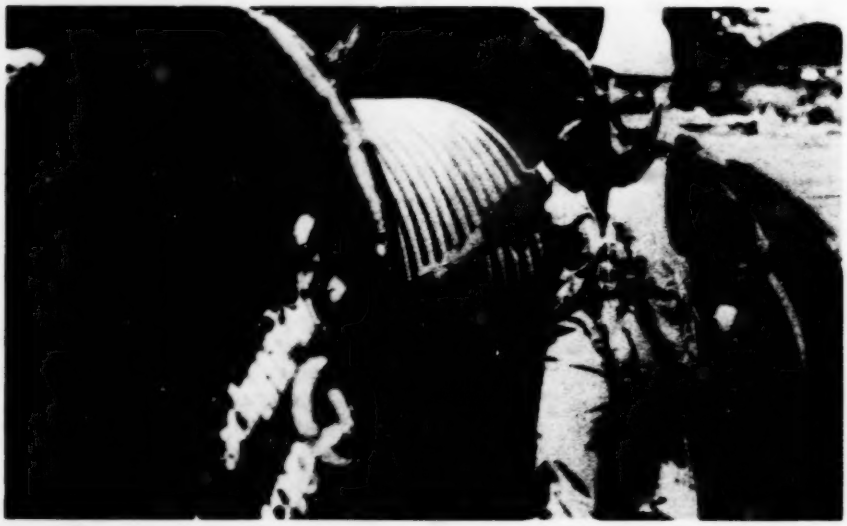
Constraints and Opportunities

This area of the report outlines various suggestions to cope with the unique northern factors of:

- Geography
- Economics of small communities
- Cultural barriers
- Limited predictability of timing of major economic development projects
- Jurisdictional factors affecting native education.

The document concludes by providing northerners with various planning descriptions to:

- Strengthen areas of current weakness
- Provide programming to meet normal growth requirements
- Adapt programming and delivery to expected trends
- Respond to special demands/challenges
- Provide programming to meet mega-project generated demands.



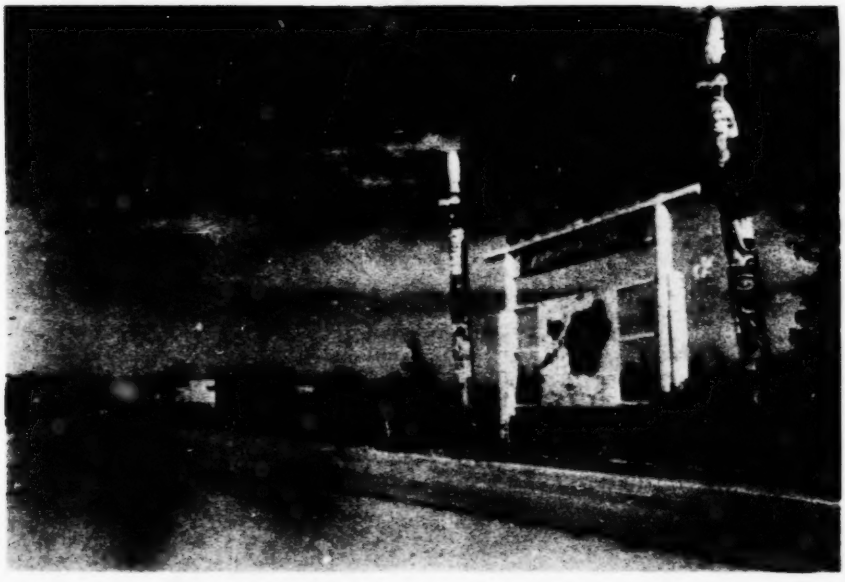
GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

One of the major outcomes of a Council-sponsored Research Review Seminar was a June, 1982 publication outlining suggested principles and procedures for conducting community-based research in Northern Alberta.

Philosophy of Northern Research

The Council outlined the following principles:

1. Reasons for the research should be clearly stated. (Is the research truly necessary?)
2. The use and application of the results of the research should be extensively forecasted before the project is initiated. (What will happen to the findings?)
3. The community should gain something from the research process even though they may not be a direct sponsor of the project. (What can the community gain from the process?)
4. There should be useful ways to consult with or involve the community in the research without compromising the validity of the project. (How can the community be involved?)
5. Plans for community feedback and support should be built into the research. This plan should be discussed and possibly modified by the community. (What are the plans for community feedback and support?)
6. Planning for information dissemination at all stages of the project should be a priority of the researchers and sponsors. This plan should also be presented, modified, and ratified by the community. (What are the plans for information dissemination?)
7. An assessment should be made concerning any possible duplication between the proposed and past research. (Is the project a duplication of past research?)



Central Registry

In this area of the position paper, the Council agreed to establish a facility that would promote coordination and dissemination of northern research findings through:

- An information registry
- Coordination efforts
- Interdepartmental liaison committees

Community Involvement

Regarding community participation, the Council concluded that communities have to be involved when they are being surveyed or researched. Various guidelines were suggested for:

- Project initiation
- Entry into the community
- Local manpower usage

Information Dissemination

It is noted that except in certain circumstances, a commitment must be made for the release of finding results to the community. Guidelines are set out under the following headings:

- Project initiation
- Progress reports
- Sequential release of information
- Draft reports
- Executive summaries

Implementation and Follow-up

In this section the Council outlined its view on practical research and the need for a problem-solving, action-oriented approach was emphasized.

Use of Consultants

Under this topic, guidelines are provided regarding time and manpower constraints, the need for expertise (particularly northern expertise) and the value of an inde-

pendent view. In conclusion, the crucial area of designing proper terms of reference is emphasized.

COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT HANDBOOK

In September, 1982, the Council published a handbook to assist residents of northern Alberta in their local decision-making processes and future community development. A summary of the report chapters is provided below.

What is Community Impact Assessment?

The ultimate goal of Community Impact Assessment is seen as impact management: the ability to plan for changes before they occur. Community Impact Assessment investigates the ways in which change can be controlled and managed in order to encourage the positive aspects of change and minimize the negative ones. Community Impact Assessment begins when members of a community perceive that a change will be affecting the usual processes that occur in a community. One of the most common changes is that due to population growth.

Although the Handbook focusses on rapid change as a result of natural resource development, a set of developments, each one having relatively minor impact, may also have a major impact as a group. It outlines that there does not have to be one major development in order to justify proposing an impact assessment.

An essential component, forecasting is defined as a matter of anticipating possibilities and probabilities about the future. Another component involves evaluation. The most important point is that Community Impact Assessment must be controlled by the community, although the community may involve outside interests in the process.

What Do We Study?

It is noted that developing written objectives is one of the most crucial

steps in planning impact assessment. If community members do not have a strong belief in the group's objectives, they will be apathetic toward the process. Using the community's knowledge of itself, coupled with supplementary information about the experiences of other communities, helps in identifying potential areas of impact. A "scoping" procedure, rather than a detailed community profile, is recommended for beginning an impact assessment.

Scoping involves determining the particular issues and the depth of coverage for each issue, planning the timing of the Community Impact Assessment, and allocating work responsibilities. The steps include:

Brainstorming – The key to brainstorming is to generate as many ideas as possible. The results are raw material and are to be used later to develop objectives. Participants should think of direct as well as indirect impacts.

Discussion – is the time when conflicting ideas from the brainstorming session are debated and when every idea is subject to close scrutiny. The results of the discussion should be the raw materials for a first approximation impact assessment which will be the foundation

for developing a Community Impact Assessment work plan.

Formulation of Research Objectives and Work Plans – The culmination of the scoping process is a tight set of research objectives that leads to a detailed work plan. In a comprehensive Community Impact Assessment, the ideal objectives should address: research that confirms current knowledge about community impacts, research that fills in the gaps in beliefs about what impacts are likely to occur, and evaluations of the importance of forecast impacts.

The Art of Objective Writing

In this section of the Handbook the important need for refined statements of objectives is discussed in detail. Objectives should be written so they are clear to everyone. An important consideration in creating measurable objectives involves the actual choice of words, which should be concrete and uniformly and explicitly defined. Objectives should be accompanied by deadlines and assignment of responsibility. The final and most critical aspect of developing objectives is the degree to which individual members of the organization support each objective.

Consultants

This chapter points out that although consultants can enhance the quality of an impact assessment, hiring a consultant is only economical when there is not time to do a quality job with the available community resources, or when the issues are sensitive and require an independent perspective. It outlines that there are three ways to use consultants effectively: for "process", as an advisor, or as a researcher. It is stated that a community should never request proposals from consultants until clear, realistic, comprehensive, unambiguous terms of reference have been developed. In choosing a consultant, the steering committee should adjudicate the proposals using criteria developed before the terms of reference are sent out. All terms of agreement should be put into a legal contract which should be reviewed regularly to ensure the progress of work and terms of reference are being met.

The Final Report

Because of the Council's prime goal of practicality, the Handbook emphasizes that once the final report is completed and the findings presented to the community, the Community Impact Assessment Report requires implementation. The steering committee should examine its organizational goals and objectives in light of the final report and decide how the findings and recommendations will be acted upon. Careful review and consideration of the findings and the development of alternate solutions to problem areas is the final step for the group and the community.

ALCOHOLISM: STRATEGIES FOR NORTHERN ALBERTA

The purpose of this major report released by the Northern Alberta Development Council in November, 1982, was to review addiction services in northern Alberta and develop service delivery strategies for the future. The report was used as a background document for a Council workshop and grew out of briefs from northerners identifying alcoholism as the prime social problem in northern Alberta.

The report outlines the perceived needs, service gaps and suggested changes from a northern community perspective. A set of conclusions and a ten element strategy are presented for consideration of the Council. The strategy focusses on actions that a community can undertake to begin to solve alcohol and drug abuse concerns.

The documentation was compiled in conjunction with a series of eight community workshops held throughout northern Alberta. In addition, interviews were carried out with addiction specialists and community service delivery agents including doctors, clergy, social service workers, and interested individuals. In total, over 600 people were contacted in the review process.

Conclusions

An outline of the report's major conclusions included the following:

- For professionals in the social service field, alcohol causes or complicates many problem situations and becomes a major generator of their workload.
- While the negative effects of drug use are perceived to be less extensive than alcohol, in some communities the abuse of inhalants and/or other chemical substances may be as serious as the abuse of alcohol.
- Any successful attack on alcohol and drug abuse will require a community leadership that is willing to bring uncomfortable issues out into the open.

- There are an impressive number of addiction services through AADAC and funded agencies available in the north, although some northern communities have few such services or no regular services.
- Alcoholics Anonymous is the major non-governmental front-line service in the north.
- Many helping professionals in communities have inadequate knowledge of the functioning of addictive material or of constructive approaches to the problem of substance abuse.
- More public education, particularly for youth, is needed and should include a whole range of information approaches.
- Communities need to provide attractive non-alcohol alternatives in order to break the well-established norm which equates recreation with alcohol.
- Medical personnel may need to examine their role with seniors and the treatment they recommend.
- While alcohol is by no means only a native problem, it is visibly and publicly a very serious native issue.
- It is time to develop and describe a northern addictions strategy, including policies regarding the location and operation of existing and planned services.

Strategies

The final part of the report provides a discussion of various strategy areas. Suggestions for change are outlined regarding:

- Education of professionals
- Education of citizens
- Treatment services
- Programs in schools
- Interagency coordination
- Public awareness and support
- Employee assistance programs
- Conflict mediation
- Norms and practices
- Staff recruitment & retention

The report is seen by many as the best baseline document produced in Canada on the topic in the last ten years.

PROFILES OF REGIONS & SMALLER COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

This two-volume compendium was designed to provide information, relating to northern regions and smaller communities, that was found to be missing or inadequate in other catalogues. Volume One contains all communities under 2,000 in population in northwestern Alberta and Volume Two contains central and northeastern Alberta. The March, 1983 profiles were designed to promote greater awareness among agencies and the northern public in on-going discussions and planning for northern development.

Each community profile was developed in a format that inventoried the following information:

- Location
- Topography
- Historical synopsis
- Population characteristics

- Physical infrastructure
- Economic activities and trends
- Tourist attractions and services
- Municipal government
- Financial data
- Community services
- Government services

The completed information provides data and accompanying maps and photos, for the following jurisdictions:

- Improvement Districts #15 - #24
- County of Grande Prairie
- County of Athabasca
- County of St. Paul
- Municipal District of Smoky River
- Municipal District of Spirit River
- Municipal District of Peace
- Municipal District of Fairview
- Municipal District of Bonnyville
- Metis Settlements of Paddle Prairie, East Prairie, Gift Lake, Peavine, Caslan, Elizabeth, and Fishing Lake
- Indian Reserves of Beaver Lake, Frog Lake, Heart Lake, Janvier, Saddle Lake, Whitefish Lake, Kehewin, Sturgeon Lake, Horse Lake, Driftpile, Sucker Creek, Swan River, Utikoomak Lake, Boyer River, Little Red River, Dene Tha, Tall Cree, and Duncan's Band.

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

During the period under review, the Northern Alberta Development Council sponsored or produced a number of information papers, background reports, field inventories, statistical analyses and advisory documents as a result of the public meeting process or as a result of departmental, Ministerial or Cabinet Committee requests. A brief summary of a number of these reports in chronological order is noted below:

Economic & Resource Development

Economic Base of Northern Alberta – 1974 consultant review and bibliography outline.

Wood Buffalo National Park – 1975 staff review of Park characteristics and provincial views regarding access and development.

Development of Granite Deposits (Phases I & II) – 1975/76 consultant study in cooperation with Alberta Research Council on the technical feasibility of developing and marketing the Rochers Red Granite deposit near Fort Chipewyan.

Trout Rearing & Processing – 1976 consultant study in cooperation with Alberta Agriculture to analyze engineering feasibility of utilizing waste heat from Milner Power Generating Station near Grande Cache.

Northern Development Strategies – 1978 staff review of government northern development strategies in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

Developing a Game Ranch – 1978 consultant study on economic feasibility of game ranching on the Kikino/Caslan Metis Settlements.

Community Economic & Employment Survey – 1978 consultant study of present and potential job opportunities in High Level, Fox Creek, Peace River, Whitecourt and Edson.

Review of Alberta Fur Trapping Industry – 1979 consultant study providing baseline data and preliminary discussion of development possibilities.

Dunvegan Hydro-Electricity Development Project – 1979 staff summary and overview.

Overview of Market Potential for Poplar Lumber – 1979 consultant study in cooperation with Smoky River Economic Development Board regarding marketing prospects in U.S. and Canada.

Berland/Fox Creek Forestry Proposals – 1979 Council review regarding proposals for development and the role of small operators.

Review of Alsands Project – 1979 staff summary of company reports relating to proposed oil sands project.

Profile of Part-Time Farmers in Northern Alberta – 1980 consultant study of role and contribution to the northern economy.

Cold Lake Business Survey – 1980 consultant study to provide baseline data of present and potential opportunities in the Cold Lake region prior to proposed heavy oil developments.

Canada/Alberta North Agreement Assessment – 1980 consultant study in cooperation with DREE Alberta to review current progress and future development needs.

Economic Growth in Lower Peace Sub-Region – 1981 consultant study in cooperation with the Peace River Regional Planning Commission to assess past, present and future trends in leading economic sectors.

Native Participation in Economic Development – 1982 consultant study in cooperation with Native Outreach to review various socio-economic factors in northern Alberta.

Waste Heat Utilization – 1982 staff review regarding possible greenhouse development in northern Alberta.

Cold Lake Beachfront Development – 1983 consultant study in cooperation with Cold Lake Business Development Committee to analyze preliminary planning and development needs.

Aircraft Maintenance Facility – 1983 consultant feasibility study for the High Level region in cooperation with the Northwestern Regional Economic Development Council.

Northern Agriculture – 1983 council review of current issues and program progress over past five years.

Fish and Wildlife in Northern Alberta – 1983 Council review regarding program delivery and planning needs.

Impact of Development

Resource Development and Human Impact – 1975 consultant study of development impact characteristics and relationship to social service needs.

Impact of Major Resource Projects in Northeast Alberta – 1976 consultant study in cooperation with the Northeast Commission to review anticipated major projects, human and material resources, and linkages to regional development.

Summary of Circumstances – 1977 staff review of socio-economic conditions in northern Alberta.

Victor Lake Cooperative Handbook – 1977 consultant study to facilitate organization and operation of native co-ops as community mechanisms.

Smith: An Assessment – 1978 consultant study in cooperation with a local community group to assess the impact of economic change in the community of Smith.

Survey of Metis Settlements – 1979 consultant study in cooperation with ESSO Resources Canada Ltd. of baseline data and needs in the Cold Lake region in preparation for regional development.

Cold Lake Regional Baseline Study (Phases I & II) – 1979/80 consultant study to establish baseline information for comparison over time, and to design a retrieval system.

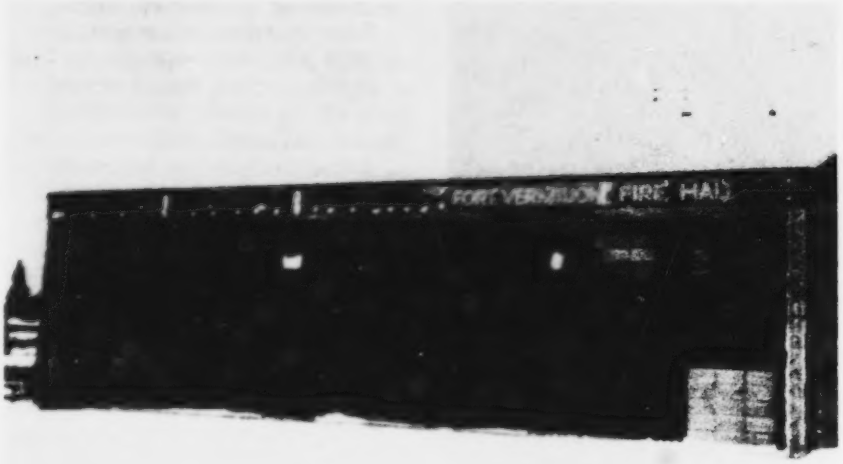
Grande Prairie Community Growth Study – 1980 consultant study in cooperation with a local committee to analyze cumulative impact of various resource developments and recommend community action.

Survey of Social Impact in Peace River Region – 1981 consultant study in cooperation with Peace River Regional Planning Commission to analyze impact of various growth scenarios in Peace River sub-regions as part of Regional Plan preparation.

Grande Cache Community Growth Study – 1981 consultant study in cooperation with a local committee to analyze existing and potential socio-economic growth and recommend community action.

Slave Lake Community Growth Study – 1982 consultant study in cooperation with a local committee to analyze existing and potential socio-economic growth and recommend community action.

Athabasca Community Growth Study – 1982 consultant study in cooperation with Athabasca University and a local committee to analyze the impact of the relocation of the University and other factors, and recommend community action.



Survey of Fort McMurray Regarding Alsands Decision – 1982 staff consultant interview and analysis study regarding community impact of Alsands not proceeding.

Swan Hills Community Growth Study – 1983 consultant study in cooperation with a local committee to analyze existing and potential socio-economic growth and recommend community action.

Infrastructure

Communications in Northern Alberta – 1974 consultant review of services available.

Airstrip Priorities in Northern Alberta – 1974 consultant review of needs in northern Alberta.

Land Tenure Project – 1974 staff summary of community needs and possible programs.

Northern Transportation Criteria – 1974 consultant assessment study and review of alternatives.

Criteria and Assessment for Municipal Assistance – 1975 consultant overview regarding northern Alberta.

Northern Transportation Study – 1976 consultant study to assess strategies vis-a-vis Western and Northern Canada and examine alternatives for a Fort McMurray/Fort Chipewyan road connection.

Disposition of Crown Lands in Northern Alberta – 1976 staff overview relating to the Green Zone.

Local Government Organization in Northern Alberta – 1977 staff inventory of existing structure.

Transportation & Communication Services in Northern Alberta – 1977 staff inventory of existing services.

Northern Housing – 1977 staff review of existing needs and strategies.

Bus Services in Northeastern Alberta – 1977 consultant study in cooperation with the Northeast Commission to analyze alternatives for the Fort McMurray region.

Public Land in Northern Alberta – 1978 Council review of policy considerations.

Study of Municipal Infrastructure with Reference to Northern Alberta – 1979 consultant study to review status and examine program implications.

Television in Northern Alberta – 1979 staff review and inventory of services.

Technical Feasibility of Extending Television Services – 1979 consultant study of the feasibility of extending microwave services to communities in the Lesser Slave Lake region.

Paving the MacKenzie Highway – 1981 staff review of impact and benefits of extension into the Northwest Territories.

Water & Sewer in Northern Alberta – 1981 staff review to provide baseline data and assessment of programming needs.

Recreation Costs in Northern Alberta – 1981 Council summary of briefs.

Indoor Swimming Pools in Northern Alberta – 1982 staff inventory and cost-comparison study.

Fire Prevention in Northern Alberta – 1983 consultant discussion document regarding existing infrastructure and program requirements.

Social & Education Studies

Northern Demographic Trends – 1974 staff study of relevant indicators.

Education Levels in Census Divisions 12-15 – 1974 staff research report.

Northeastern Alberta Workforce Survey – 1975 inventory undertaken in cooperation with the Alberta Native Development Corporation.

Overview of Debt Financing in Northern Alberta – 1975 consultant study of debt delinquency and its economic and human effects.

Human Environment Research Needs – 1975 consultant study in preparation for initiation of AOS-ERP program.

Language Policy & Indian Education – 1975 consultant study of native language training programs in schools.

Alcohol Use & Related Problems – 1975 staff summary of issues in northern Alberta.

Population: Socio-Economic Factors – 1976 consultant study of population changes related to impacts on northern health and family planning.

Summary of Government Activity in Four Northern Communities – 1978 staff analysis of government services and expenditure in selected remote communities.

Native Migration Patterns – 1978 consultant study to document basic travelling patterns prior to expansion of special government programs.

Evaluation of NADC Bursary Program – 1979 consultant study to evaluate progress and suggested directions.

Vocational Education in I.D. 23 – 1979 consultant study in cooperation with the Northwestern Regional Economic Development Council to assess needs and opportunities.

Day-Care in Northern Alberta – 1979 Council review of programming needs and concerns.

Training Programs Available to Native People in Northern Alberta – 1980 consultant study to inventory available programs and analyze needs.

Projection of Highly-Qualified Manpower Requirements in Northern Alberta – 1980 consultant study detailing possible trends 1981-85.

Native Friendship Centres in Northern Alberta – 1981 Council review of needs and program assessment.

Northern Health & Social Issues – 1981 Council review of brief presentations.

Cost of Living in Northern Alberta – 1982 consultant study to analyze price differences and hidden costs.

Labour Force Turnover in Northern Alberta – 1982 consultant study to provide baseline data and analyze causes and trends.

Workers' Compensation in Northern Alberta – 1982 Council review of the impact of proposed changes.

Population Figures and Age Cohorts in Northern Alberta – 1982 staff inventory of current census tracts.

Education (K-12) in Northern Alberta – 1982 Council review of current issues.

The Over-Sixty-five Population in Northern Alberta – 1983 Council analysis of demographics and Alberta Nursing Home Review Panel recommendations and implications for Northern Alberta.

Northland School Division – 1983

Council review of governance/ administrative issues.

Mental Health in Northern Alberta – 1983 Council paper presented to Mental Health Act Ministerial Advisory Committee.

Welfare Alternatives – 1983 consultant review of innovative strategies across Canada.

Medical and Dental Practice Opportunities in Northern Alberta – 1983 consultant inventory of needs and cost-effective benefits.

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

During the period under review, the Northern Alberta Development Council was also successful in arranging for special gap funding to assist a number of community and economic development initiatives. Among the supported projects were:

- High Level Action North Recovery Centre
- Lac La Biche Fish Co-op Plant
- Sturgeon Lake Campsite Project
- Savanna Townsite Committee
- New Dawn Housing Project
- Grande Cache Native Education Classes
- Alberta Trappers Magazine
- National Northern Development Conferences
- Project Ironstar
- Fort McMurray Alternative Education Society
- Fort Chipewyan Archeological Assessment
- Grande Cache Native Area Committee
- Bonnyville Dove Centre
- Metis Settlements Local Government Project
- Kikino Tree Nursery Proposal
- Beaver Lake Parka Manufacturing
- Northwest Fish Co-op Plant
- Anzac Community Centre
- Lesser Slave Lake Television Society
- I.D. 23 Seed Cleaning Plant
- Fort McKay Red River Point Society
- St. Paul Habitat Enterprises
- Lac La Biche Day-Care Society
- Human Side of Energy International Conference
- Fort Chipewyan Fishermen's Association
- Plamondon Camp 3F
- C.E.S.O. Summer Youth Program
- Calling Lake Information Centre
- Lakeland Agricultural Research Project
- Bonnyville Day-Care Society
- Lac La Biche Swine Supplement Project
- Manning Television Society

MINISTERIAL DEPARTMENTAL REVIEWS

Over the years, the Northern Alberta Development Council met on a number of occasions with provincial Cabinet Ministers and senior officials to review important topics of concern or present ideas and recommendations in areas brought to the Council by northerners. Industry and various planning and delivery agencies have also met with Council. A number of field trips were also undertaken. The major meetings are summarized below:

1973

- Chairman, Peace River Regional Planning Commission
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Industry & Commerce

1974

- Chairman, Northland School Division
- President, Syncrude
- Training Director, Great Canadian Oil Sands
- Vice-President, Edmonton Chamber of Commerce
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Telephones & Utilities
- Deputy Minister, Lands & Forests
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs
- General Manager, Northern Alberta Railways
- Chairman, Students' Finance Board
- Assistant Superintendent, Treasury Branches
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Highways
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Environment
- Director-General, Environment Canada

1975

- Minister Responsible for Tourism
- Deputy Premier
- Minister of Native Affairs
- Deputy Minister, Business Development & Tourism
- Premier
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Transportation
- Minister of Municipal Affairs
- Director-General, DREE Alberta
- President, Metis Association of Alberta
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Agriculture

1976

- Director, Northern Affairs, Manitoba
- Director, Education North Project

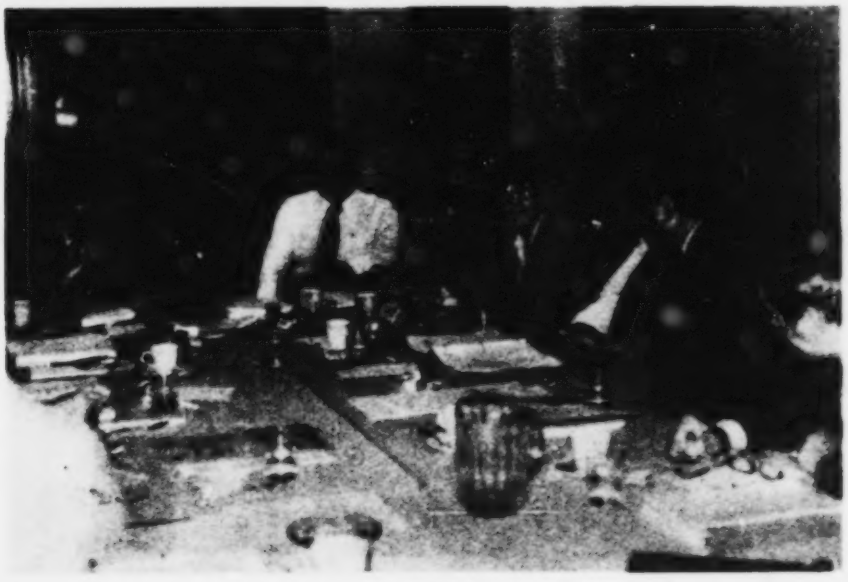
Executive Assistant, Alberta Hospitals Commission
Director, Federal & Intergovernmental Affairs
Assistant Deputy Minister, Tourism
Director, Alberta Housing Corporation

1977

Assistant Deputy Minister, Regional Business Development
Deputy Minister, Environment
President, Athabasca University
Minister of Agriculture
Executive Director, Native Secretariat
Deputy Minister, Business Development & Tourism
Commissioner of Yukon
Commissioner of Northwest Territories
Director, Historic Sites
Commissioner, North East Region

1978

Minister, Canada Department of Regional Economic Expansion
Assistant Director, Alberta Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Commission
Regional Director, Transportation
Vice-President, Foothills Pipelines



Executive Director, Native Outreach
Director, Students' Finance Board
Premier

1979

Minister of Economic Development
Director, Beaverlodge Agricultural Research Station
Commanding Officer, Beaverlodge Radar Station
Deputy Minister, Energy & Natural Resources
Cabinet
Northern MLAs
Regional Manager, Recreation & Parks
Minister, Tourism & Small Business

1980

Minister, Utilities & Telephones
Director, Housing & Public Works
Director, Social Services & Community Health
Assistant Deputy Minister, Advanced Education & Manpower
Supervisor, AVC Grouard
Deputy Minister, Transportation
Vice-President, Alsands Project
Supervisor, AVC Lac La Biche
Chairman, Alberta Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Commission
Assistant Manager, Alberta Opportunity Company
Premier
Minister of Social Services & Community Health
Minister of Hospitals & Medical Care

1981

Deputy Minister, Recreation & Parks
Chairman, Northlands Review Committee
Minister of Transportation
President, Athabasca University
Deputy Minister, Social Services & Community Health
Minister of Tourism & Small Business
Chairman, Peace River Regional Planning Commission

1982

Chairman, Northland School Division
Director, Mother Theresa Project

Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs
President, Business Assistance to Native Albertans Corporation
Regional Directors, Social Services & Community Health
Minister of Recreation and Parks
Director, Environment Council of Alberta
Minister Responsible for Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation
Associate Minister of Telephones
Premier
Deputy Minister of Education

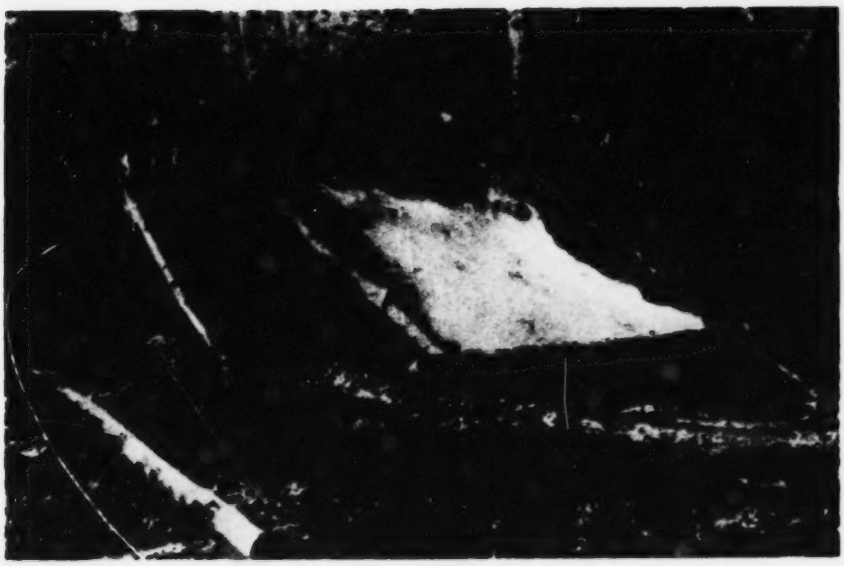
1983

Vice President, Noval Technologies Ltd.
Associate Minister of Public Lands & Wildlife
Minister of Agriculture
Minister of Advanced Education
Minister of Manpower
Northern MLAs

SPECIFIC ISSUES

In its activities covering the past ten years, the Council has reviewed and/or provided advice to the Provincial Government on a large number of specific program and policy matters. A chronological listing of the major topics includes:

Access to Remote Settlements
Northern TV Services
Land Tenure Program
Student Bursaries
Alberta North Agreements
Northern Manpower Requirements
Northern Electrification
Crump Report
Downey Report on Adult Education
Rural Gas Program
Northern Parks Development
Integrated Health Services
Northern Transportation Needs
Northeast Commission Act
Northern Water Supply Program
Native Fire Fighters
Demographic Trends in the North
Northern Transportation Agreement
Northern Tourism
Decentralization Task Force
Banking Facilities
Minimum Health Care Facilities
Water & Sewer Priorities
Northern Airstrips
Local Government Needs
AOSERP
Government Local Purchasing
Hall Commission
Transportation Links to NWT
Ambulance Services
Co-terminus boundaries
Land Use Forum Report
Veterinary Clinics
Waste Heat Utilization
Mental Health Services
Habitat Conference
Alberta North Needs Assessment
Special Language Classes
Road & Weather Reporting
Regional Colleges
Water Well Maintenance
Heritage Trust Fund Proposals
Mobile Dental Clinics
Hospital Services
Coal Policy
Rural Development Projects
Northern Supplementary Funding
Education North Project
Northwest Rail Authority
Alaska/Alberta Relations
Syncrude Employment Program
Lesser Slave Lake Basin
Athabasca University
Freshwater Fish Marketing Corp.
Native Land Caveat
Graham Lake Recreation Study
Northern Communities Committee
Alberta Native Development Corp.
RDIA/Special RDA



NWT Yukon Relations
Northern Housing
Communications North Proposal
Ombudsman's Office
Northeast Alberta Regional Plan
Foothills Pipeline Proposal
ECA Forestry Hearings
Northern Land Use
Lakeland Management Plan
Employment & Relocation Programs
Agricultural Research
Land Clearing
Equalized Assessment
Metis Settlements Infrastructure
Trappers' Compensation
P.S.S. Policy
Dunvegan Dam
Opportunity Corps
Integrated Management Plans
Historic Sites
Northern Home Heating Allowance
Municipal Assessment
Commercial Fishing
Settlement Sooniyaw Corporation
Fertilizer Supplies
Nursing Training
Fire Protection
Labour Needs
Alsands Project
Cold Lake Project
I.D. Advisory Councils
Day-Care Policy
Educational Financing
Drainage & Erosion Control
Blue Quills School
Native Business Development
Northland School Division
Regional Plans

Electrical Energy Marketing Act
Workers' Compensation
Economic Resurgence Program
Forestry Industry
Grain Terminals
Water Diversion

In some instances, the topics were reviewed in a normal program monitoring sense, with no further action taken. In some cases instructions were given to the Northern Development Branch for follow-up and coordination. In other cases substantial research and detailed review resulted in Council recommendations to respective Ministers or Cabinet as a whole.

COMMITTEES

The Northern Alberta Development Council also fulfilled its program monitoring and advisory role by having Council or staff representation on various interdisciplinary committees, for example: the NADC Student Bursary Selection Committee, the Northeast Commissioner's Advisory Committee, the Education North Project Committee, Cold Lake Advisory Committee, Grande Cache Environmental Planning Study Committee, the Lesser Slave Lake Basin Advisory Committee, Northern Services Committee, Tourism Destination Area Studies Committee, Slave River Hydro Committee, International Conference on Northern Regions Planning Committee, Forestry Hearings Committee, Select Committee on Fishing, Fire Prevention Review Committee, and Alberta Water Resources Commission.

INFORMATION SERVICES

As an ongoing part of its mandate, the Northern Alberta Development Council and Branch staff in Peace River routinely provide government departments, industry and the public with general and specific information on all facets of nNorthern Alberta. An extensive Northern Resource Centre and library are maintained and an on-line Registry of Northern Research has been set up. Bibliographies and compendiums are available for use, and liaison is maintained with universities

and organizations such as the Boreal Institute. Another example of the Council's work in promoting the development of the north was the 1980 participation with R. Angus (Alberta) Ltd. in the production of a film "People of the Oil Sands" which has seen wide usage on television and in the schools of Alberta.

PRIORITY SETTING

In each of the ten years under review, the Northern Alberta Development Council has defined a set of annual objectives. After its yearly review in the spring of 1983, the current Council is presently pursuing the following broad priority areas:

Economic Development
- resource development opportunities
- rural processing and diversification
- local purchasing
- community growth studies
- negative effects of welfare
- Alberta North Agreement strategy

Agriculture
- new land development
- research needs
- financial factors

Tourism
- enhancement opportunities

Transportation
- highway rehabilitation
- remote community/resource development access
- long range planning

Infrastructure
- water and sewer upgrading
- housing needs
- fire prevention
- Electric Energy Marketing Act

Education
- school dropout problem
- northern costs
- outreach programs
- vocational education
- highly-qualified manpower needs

Interagency Coordination
- public participation
- northern research registry
- decentralized service delivery

CONFERENCES

OPPORTUNITY NORTH CONFERENCE
November 26-29, 1975
Peace River

In November of 1975, the Council sponsored a major conference which attracted over 300 delegates to hear some 60 private sector and government speakers discuss development issues affecting northern Albertans. The conference, organized as a forum for northerners, was opened by Premier Peter Lougheed.

The Premier outlined Alberta's commitment to balanced growth and diversification, and called on northerners themselves to determine the pace of development they desired. He asked northerners to define the appropriate role of government in the north, to set priorities for services to assure local and Native participation, and to assist in strengthening ties with the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

The Conference sessions, chaired by members of the Northern Alberta Development Council, probed various questions associated with development and processing of both renewable and non-renewable resources. In the non-renewable area there were sessions on energy and the oil sands, as well as on electricity, coal and natural gas. The prospects for a variety of northern minerals were also discussed. The renewable resource topics included agricultural processing, forestry development, recreation and tourism. Additionally, there were major sessions on education, social services, and the various implications of northern development.

Among the principal speakers were provincial Cabinet Ministers, municipal, provincial and federal officials, senior executives from primary and secondary industry, and leaders of numerous northern organizations, including native groups.

NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION SEMINAR
December 8-10, 1976
Grande Prairie

Given that numerous briefs to the Northern Alberta Development Council dealt with transportation issues, the Council, in cooperation with Alberta Transportation, held a forum in December of 1976 in Grande Prairie for residents of Northern Alberta concerned with proper development of these vital services.

Honourable Hugh Horner, Deputy Premier and Minister of Transportation, delivered the opening address to over 500 representatives of northern municipalities and organizations. Dr. Horner emphasized the continued priority placed on northern transportation and noted that transportation was the

key not only for northern development, but also for the economic diversification of the entire province.

The participants were then invited to discuss northern transportation priorities and delivery systems with senior officials of Alberta Transportation in sessions chaired by Council members. The topics discussed included construction problems, access to isolated communities, the Motor Transport Board, weight limit problems, safety, the Northwest Rail Authority proposal, air transportation, bridges, major development roads, and Improvement District roads.

In a wrap-up session, a number of Cabinet Ministers and MLAs joined in an open question-and-answer discussion of northern transportation and related concerns.

YUKON NORTHWEST TERRITORIES INTERCHANGE
August 16-19, 1977

In order to maintain and strengthen ties with the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the Northern Alberta Development Council in 1977 travelled to Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Hay River to meet with the Commissioners and Executive Councils of the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

The discussions revolved around topics of common interest, such as local government development, transportation linkages, tourism potential, resource development, infrastructure financing, community economic development, native employment needs, and communications problems.

The Council also met with local Chambers of Commerce and representative groups, and toured various facilities. A number of specific follow-up activities were pursued. These included joint tourism promotion, hydro power development potential, transportation and supply mechanisms.

The Council hosted members of the Northwest Territorial Council on a return visit on October 13, 1977. Council was also represented on a related visit to Alaska which explored similar common interests with the State of Alaska.

INTERPROVINCIAL MEETING OF NORTHERN MINISTERS
September 27-29, 1978
Fort McMurray

Partly as a result of the Council's work on a review and analysis of northern development programs across Canada, Alberta hosted the First Annual Meeting of Interprovincial Ministers with Responsibility for Northern Development. The meeting was held in Fort McMurray in September of 1978 under the auspices of Hon. Bob Dowling, Chairman of the Northern Alberta Development Council. Also attending were the provinces of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland. The sessions dealt with government strategies, infrastructure servicing, employment policies and economic development opportunities. The participants concluded the conference with a tour of the oil sands projects and the New Town at Fort McMurray.

Subsequently, interprovincial meetings have been held in Thunder Bay, Ontario, focussing on housing, communications and local government; Thompson, Manitoba on economic strategies and levels of service; and Happy Valley, Labrador, to discuss environmental impact assessments and DREE Agreements. The subsequent meetings have seen

the additional participation by Ministers from the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The Chairman of the Northern Alberta Development Council has led or been part of the Alberta delegation at all the annual meetings and it is expected these valuable interchanges will continue.

AGRICULTURE NORTH SEMINAR
November 22-24, 1978
Peace River

Over 300 practising farmers, agribusiness and government officials participated in the Agriculture North Seminar, sponsored by the Northern Alberta Development Council in Peace River, November 22, 23, and 24, 1978. The Seminar was an opportunity to discuss current issues and problems relating to development of agriculture in Alberta's north. One of the main reasons for sponsorship of a seminar on northern agriculture was the Northern Alberta Development Council's view that problems facing development in the north are often unique and therefore innovative solutions are often required.

The Seminar was preceded by a discussion document, Agriculture in Northern Alberta, released in September of 1978. The document outlined current issues in northern agriculture as a prelude to dialogue between practicing northern farmers and various officials involved in research, policy development and program delivery.

As a public participation mechanism for the north, the Council made every effort to assure the success of the Seminar by involving all facets of the northern agricultural community. To facilitate the dialogue objective, Council was pleased to obtain the full cooperation of Alberta Agriculture and the various northern MLAs. Extensive consultation with the District Agriculturists of Northern Alberta was particularly important to the success of the Seminar.

After the conference the Council, working from verbatim transcripts of the proceedings, summarized the following results:

Protecting the Family Farm – Suggestions were made to protect family farming as a viable operation and keep the younger generations on the farm. Solutions proposed included: easier credit, interest subsidies, education in practical farming, and development of farm management skills. It was also suggested that incentives should be created to encourage individuals to develop uncleared lands which have moderate to high agricultural potential. A program of large scale liming was also advocated.

Transportation – It was urged that work on the Prince Rupert Port proceed as quickly as possible, in order to alleviate grain handling problems. Also, an overall review of national and provincial policies was needed in order to readjust priorities and examine alternatives such as removal of subsidies on rapeseed and beef products and subsidization of grain movements from La Crete, Worsley and Valleyview; and/or establishment of off-rail gathering stations. Improvements on Highways #58 and #67 were also noted as important.

Research & Extension – Farmers at the Seminar felt there was a need to fund individual research and to apply expertise directly to local on-site farm problems. Specific research

areas to be actively pursued included: aeration processes for grain, high moisture barley crops for silage, new crop strains more suitable to the northern Alberta climate, vegetable production techniques for the north, development of a pipeline for the transportation of grain, and a program of rewards/incentives to encourage individual initiative in development of new processes.

Grazing Leases – More grazing lands are needed on a private lease basis and it was felt there was a need for more Community Pastures in the High Level area.

Environmental Protection – In this area, the Seminar suggested greater attention be given to reforestation of burnt-out areas and areas stripped by the logging industry. Suggestions were also made regarding revision of cost-sharing policies to allow for individual drainage projects, stronger weed control by-laws, and wolf control efforts in both the summer and winter months.

Planning – An overall review of northern land development and land-use policies is needed to reflect a broader view of total community needs and to ensure coordination.

Small Processors – In order to counter threats of monopoly in certain industries such as meat processing, there appears to be a need for incentives and other forms of assistance to small processors and beginners in agribusiness.

Federal/Provincial Programs – It was noted that the present arrangements for the compensation of damage by waterfowl should be reviewed and that Federal agricultural research results were not always available to the farmer. Because of severe shortages of farm labour it was suggested that Local Agricultural Manpower Boards be created to coordinate efforts to meet labour needs. It was also felt Treaty Indians should be allowed to benefit from Alberta Agriculture's assistance programs.

HEALTH NEEDS IN NORTHERN ALBERTA WORKSHOP
February 5-8, 1980
St. Paul

The Health Needs Workshop in St. Paul in February of 1980, was part of a two-year review process undertaken by the Council regarding health care delivery in the north.

The Council's objective was to review and clarify issues which had previously been submitted in the form of briefs from various northern citizens, communities, and health organizations. Initial investigations had revealed that health needs could not be studied in isolation due to the complex nature of health care delivery. The Council therefore initiated a process which resulted in a consultant being selected to undertake an intensive review of the health care delivery system in northern Alberta.

The study included utilization of available statistical data from provincial departments, field collection of anecdotal references from twenty-two localities across northern Alberta, and a review of current research in North America. In writing their report, the consultants were asked to include material that could be utilized for discussion by participants at the Workshop.

During February 5-8, 1980, sixty participants, representing a wide cross-section of health care professionals, government officials and professional organizations, met in St. Paul. The purpose of the Workshop was to review the consultant's report and discuss potential recommendations on northern health needs.

The Workshop discussions resulted in a list of approximately fifty recommendations supported by a concensus of the participants. The recommendations were presented to the Northern Alberta Development Council for their consideration and use in preparing a Council submission to the Provincial Government.

The following is a brief summary of the topics addressed:

Personnel – The Council suggested incentive systems should be examined to attract and retain health care professionals in the north, and that there is a particularly acute need for dentists and doctors in unserviced areas. Increased staffing is required at the local level in specific areas such as alcoholism treatment and there is a particular need for more psychiatric care and more flexible staff utilization in the mental health care field.

Changes in Present Programs – A review of the role of Mental Health Services in the north was suggested, as was a re-evaluation of the provision of ambulance services and related fee schedules. Council also suggested modification of the Home

Care program for the elderly, reviewing the availability of diagnostic and holding beds, increased flexibility in health care funding and utilization of certain small hospitals by conversion to alternate health services, such as auxiliary beds.

Specialty Services – Recommendations included an increase in audiology services, retention of speech and hearing mobile units, and the examination of a province-wide children's dental plan.

Coordination of Services – In this area it was felt that common boards of health and social services appeared to be beneficial, and that a review of regional boundaries for health delivery systems should be conducted. The need to speed up the facility planning process and increase local input was also noted.

Facilities – It was suggested that establishment of regional health centres should be examined. More halfway rehabilitation houses for follow-up care of people with alcohol/drug problems were needed, and mobile dental units should be increased. With regard to the elderly, it was felt local living accommodations should be emphasized. In addressing the remote communities, Council noted a lack of good communication facilities in some areas, the need to upgrade certain access roads and airstrips for medivac, and the problem of provision of accommodations for patients from isolated communities.

Prevention Programs – That provision of adequate sanitation and potable water should continue to be given high priority for all northern communities was Council's major point in this area. It was also felt alcohol and drug awareness programs and nutrition programs should be increased.

Training – Needs noted were: an increase in paraprofessional training and inservice programs, additional bursary programs, and a re-examination of the post-RN/BSc program.

Federal/Provincial Cooperation – It was felt there should be an increase in statistical sharing and coordination of programs.

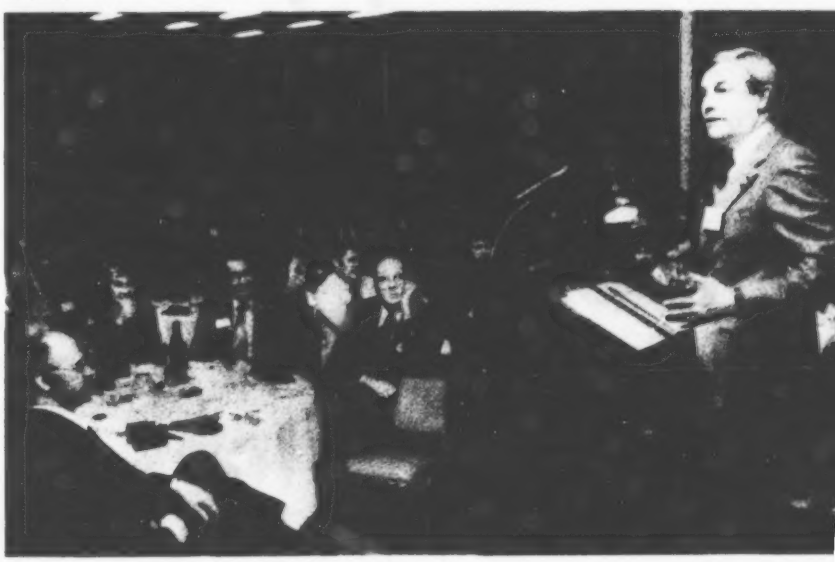
Isolated Communities – Particular consideration should be given to the needs of northern isolated communities and Council was concerned that lifestyles be considered in treatment.

ALBERTA NORTH IN THE '80s CONFERENCE
November 20-22, 1980
Grande Prairie

The Alberta North in the '80s Conference was a major effort of the Northern Alberta Development Council to help northerners face the challenge of the coming decade. Some 300 community leaders from across the north attended the November 20-22, 1980 Conference in Grande Prairie.

The Conference was designed to provide an opportunity for northerners and government officials to exchange views and become aware of each other's plans. The delegates represented all facets of northern life, industry, community organizations, municipal councils, small business and social agencies. Government representatives included the Premier, a number of Cabinet Ministers, most northern Members of the Legislature and several Deputy Ministers and Program Managers. The structure of the Conference was one of "information giving" and "workshop deliberations" and focussed upon three major topics:

- What are the business and employment opportunities in the 1980s?



- What are the implications for people as a result of present and proposed plans?
- What are the infrastructure and servicing requirements in the future?

The information sessions consisted of a major address by Premier Peter Lougheed; a presentation by Harold Millican, Administrator of the Northern Pipeline Agency; presentations by three panels of Deputy Ministers; and a panel on Native Development. The workshop portion involved simultaneous meetings of twenty delegate discussion groups, all of whom were assigned the three major discussion topics of business-employment opportunities, implications for people, and infrastructure/servicing requirements.

Through this process the delegates identified a total of 285 ideas and concerns and brought forward 570 recommendations. A Tier II group consolidated these to approximately fifty recommendation areas. These were presented to the total assembly during the final day of the conference for discussion and ratification. The Conference concluded with an opportunity for the delegates to raise these common suggestions in a direct interface with a number of provincial Cabinet Ministers.

- The need for increased long range planning.
- A desire for more awareness of government planning in advance.
- Emphasis on local involvement in decision-making.
- The unpreparedness of northern communities for large developments.
- Infrastructure and service needs in rapid growth communities.
- Social dislocation caused by boom growth.
- The effect of economic uncertainty on small business.
- A lack of native participation in economic development.
- The continued need for water & sewer upgrading.
- The high cost of housing.
- Various northern agriculture concerns.
- The northern manpower attraction turnover problem.
- The importance of education and the fact that education/training dollars are smaller in the north.
- Related health care needs.
- The continued importance of transportation.
- Concerns regarding recreational funding.
- A desire for more decentralization.

The Northern Alberta Development Council sincerely felt the issues and recommendations identified were a close reflection of how northerners perceived the present situation. The Council concluded the review by forwarding a set of recommendations for consideration and follow-up by the Provincial Cabinet.

NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION REVIEW
April 19/May 27, 1981
Fairview/Bonnyville

During 1981, the Northern Alberta Development Council undertook a major review of northern transportation needs and progress to date. The Council has long seen transportation services as vital to the ongoing development of Alberta's north. In past years, nearly one quarter of the briefs received at public meetings across the north have dealt with transportation concerns.

In December of 1976, the Council held its initial Northern Transportation Seminar in Grande Prairie when Alberta Transportation was first beginning its major decentralization program. To reflect the importance northerners place on this issue, the Council has continued to spend a significant amount of time deliberating highway, resource road, bridge, rail and airport concerns. Many of its recommendations to the Provincial Cabinet have placed a high priority on transportation development and the Council has had an excellent ongoing dialogue with Alberta Transportation.

The 1981 Transportation Review was centered around two regional meetings held in Fairview on April 19, 1981 and in Bonnyville on May 27, 1981. Outlined at the two sessions were a statistical review, Alberta Transportation's current commitments and a summary of long-range plans. The workshops allowed northern municipalities and organizations additional input into current and future planning. An important part of each workshop involved a wide-ranging question and answer period conducted by senior officials of Alberta Transportation.

At the workshop dinner attended by the Hon. Henry Kroeger, Minister of Transportation, the Council praised the department for the excellent progress made in the last five years to meet the needs of northern Alberta. The NADC Chairman also indicated that Alberta Transportation's decentralization of decision-

making and responsiveness to local concerns was highly commendable.

All of the needs and major concerns voiced by the community delegates at Fairview and Bonnyville were summarized and responded to by the Council and Alberta Transportation.

RESEARCH REVIEW SEMINAR
June 16-18, 1981
Peace River

One of the many ways the Northern Alberta Development Council attempts to achieve its objective of providing advice to the Provincial Government, is to carry out relevant, practically-oriented research. In an effort to assure that the public and various government agencies were kept aware of the vast quantity of work the Council had conducted or sponsored over the years, a Research Review Seminar was hosted in June, 1981 in Peace River. The Council selected for review forty major studies examining a wide variety of topics of concern to northerners.

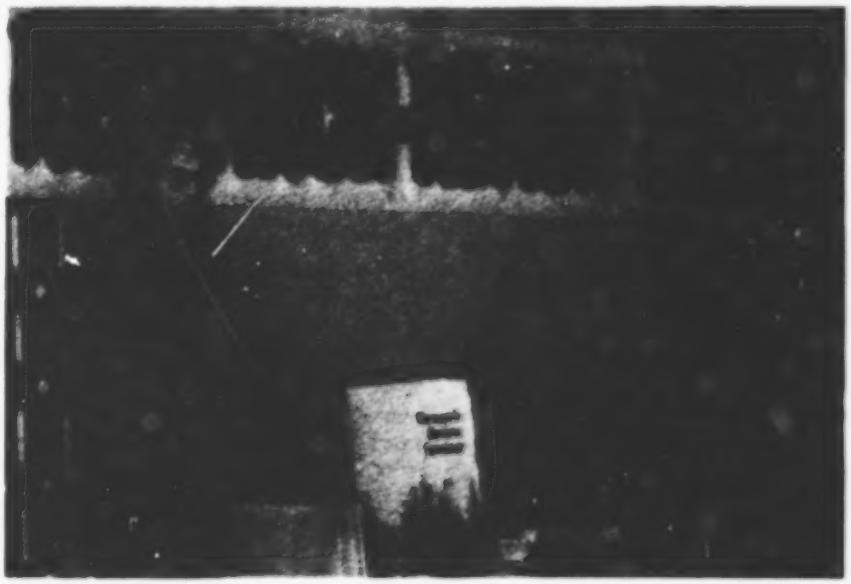
The Council was very pleased with the process of laying out on the table the results and implications of the completed research. A large number of knowledgeable people from government departments, industry, and northern communities participated in the review and shared their expertise with each other. During its subsequent deliberations, the Council determined that three dominant themes emerged from the Seminar.

The first theme related to increasing the participation and involvement of communities in the research process. Participants felt that greater caution and sensitivity were necessary on the part of most researchers when dealing with northern communities. The second theme dealt with the need to improve the mechanisms for collecting and cataloguing research results. Delegates called for the development of a clearing-house or central registry for northern research. Thirdly, was recognition of the need to disseminate research results as widely as possible. Delegates felt this should be done as soon as possible after research projects were completed and that users, interested organizations, and those who participated in the research should be given full access to the final product, wherever possible.

As follow-up to the Research Review Seminar the Northern Alberta Development Council prepared and published a set of guidelines for use by consultants and communities in conducting research in northern Alberta, and is presently implementing a central registry of research in northern Alberta.

ADULT EDUCATION & TRAINING IN NORTHERN ALBERTA WORKSHOP
June 21-23, 1982
Athabasca

In June of 1982, over 100 representatives of northern Alberta communities, educational institutions, industry and government met in Athabasca to review and reach concensus on priorities and recommend-



ations regarding adult education and training in northern Alberta.

Prior to the Workshop, the Northern Alberta Development Council commissioned a background research report to provide an overview and common data base for delegate discussions. During the Workshop, panel discussions presented the views of industry, delivery institutions, and the community. Addresses were also given by Bob Carney of the University of Alberta and Stephen Griew, President of Athabasca University.

The various Workshop discussion groups were asked to examine:

- What is working well in AETNA?
- What are the issues and gaps?
- What should be the recommendations and priorities?

Both the research report and the delegate discussions noted a positive overall reaction to AETNA. Delegates generally concurred that the system operated fairly well, but there was room for improvement. Although the delegates differed with the researchers in order, intensity and expression of system problems and solutions, the substance of their conclusions and recommendations to the Northern Alberta Development Council was the same. The Council summary for consideration by government Ministers is briefly outlined below:

Values – the integrity of the family is important, and the role of community must be encouraged.

Local Delivery – There is a need for elected local advisory committees and the concept of consortia should be promoted. Auxiliary remote community programs are valuable but remote community liaison information must be increased. Enhanced vocational training facilities are essential and additional programs to Technical Schools should be considered. Wider local delivery of career counselling programs is needed and community adult learning centres should be encouraged.

Native Education – Various existing program adjustments were also suggested. Council's largest concern was with the severe dropout problem in the K-12 system.

Distance Education – ACCESS should strongly enhance its network development in northern Alberta.

Funding – Additional funding is needed to allow programming for Grade 10 vocational education. Training allowances must reflect higher cost of living in the north and support to industry for training is important, as is buying of seats in training programs by the Federal Government. It was strongly recommended that the NADC Student Bursary Program be re-oriented to the incentive approach.

Jurisdiction – A clear role definition is required for all advanced education delivery agencies. Yearly strategic training plans by government are needed. All institutions should look towards board governance. Treaty Indian barriers should be examined.

WORKSHOP ON ALCOHOLISM: STRATEGIES FOR NORTHERN ALBERTA

January 17-19, 1983
Grand Centre

In order to provide northerners with an opportunity to identify concerns about alcohol and drug abuse, addiction services and needed changes, the Northern Alberta Development Council sponsored a review process culminating in a Workshop in Grand Centre in January of 1983.

The process began as a result of a joint meeting between the Council and the Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC) in Lac La Biche in September of 1980. A cooperative effort by the two agencies saw a series of mini-workshops conducted in Whitecourt, Peace River, High Level, Grande Prairie, St. Paul, Fort McMurray, Lac La Biche and Slave Lake as background to an extensive consultant's report. The report was used as a discussion document by the some 120 delegates who assembled in Grand Centre. The Workshop delegates represented northern communities; various social, educational and health-related organizations; and those involved in the addictions field.

In general sessions and discussion groups, the delegates were asked to examine the findings of the research report, discuss the implications of the findings for present service delivery, and provide the Council with ideas and recommendations for the future. Various speakers provided their thoughts from a medical, legal, clerical, funded agency and government point of view. The Workshop concluded with a preliminary response from the AADAC representatives in attendance.

A summary of the Council's recommendations began by emphasizing the theme of addressing addiction service issues from a community approach. This approach calls for increased and renewed action from northern communities in terms of evaluating needs, establishing priorities and carrying out plans

and activities at the local level. The role of AADAC in this process is seen as one of leadership and support through its existing counselling, extension, treatment and funding programs.

Among the specific Council suggestions for AADAC were:

Public Awareness

- Continue and expand recent media campaign
- Review school programs
- Separate prevention and treatment functions.

Treatment

- A multi-purpose treatment centre is required in Grande Prairie
- District offices should be established in Whitecourt and Athabasca
- Additional detox centres are needed in the north
- Strong community involvement is a continuing need.

Coordination of Services

- Coordination with the federal government should be improved
- Interagency coordination requires more attention
- A handbook should be prepared for use by northern communities.

Professional Education

- Current in-service training through Henwood should be extended
- Professional associations, particularly in the legal and medical field, and government departments must strengthen in-service addictions training.

Printed copies of the proceedings of all conferences are available from the Northern Development Branch in Peace River.

ALBERTA NORTH PROGRAMMING

ALBERTA NORTH SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS

In early 1974, Canada and Alberta signed a General Development Agreement which established a broad framework for the planning and implementation of policies and programs to foster socio-economic development in Alberta. One of the first subsidiary agreements signed under the General Development Agreement was the Interim Alberta North Agreement.

The Interim Agreement (April 1, 1974 - March 31, 1978) was followed by a long term Agreement signed on February 8, 1978 in Fort Vermilion. The second Agreement covered the period from April 1, 1978 to March 31, 1983.

The Northern Alberta Development Council played a significant advisory role in the design of both the interim and long term Agreements. Council public meetings were also used as sounding boards for "grass roots" input into various phases of Agreement administration.

Interim Alberta North Agreement, 1974-78

The Interim Agreement with the Department of Regional Economic Expansion saw the cost-sharing of $14.7 million of specifically designated northern Alberta projects. DREE provided 50% of the funding for provincially designed, budgeted and implemented programs which met the mutually agreed-upon objectives.

The objectives of the Agreement were:

- To provide options and opportunities for the people of northern Alberta to contribute to and participate in the development of the region.
- To initiate those social and cultural amenities, community infrastructure improvements and services required to enable the people of northern Alberta to actively participate in northern development.
- To encourage the orderly development of northern Alberta for the benefit of the inhabitants and the Province.

Cost-shared projects were implemented under five programs:

Life Improvement – This program sought to provide opportunities for northern people to improve their quality of life. The activities included new or enriched initiatives developed to furnish options for residents to improve their lifestyles.

Alberta Social Services and Community Health's Opportunity Corps was implemented in the Lesser Slave Lake region and extended to Janvier, Fort Chipewyan and Fort Vermilion. The Employment and Relocation Counselling project implemented by Alberta Advanced Education and Manpower was effective in facilitating the relocation of family units from isolated communities into Slave Lake, Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie. Other sample projects included the Northern Development Branch's special language class and pre-careers program assistance in Grande Cache and Fort McMurray.

Community Extension – The projects in this program were designed to assist unorganized northern communities in the organization of local decision-making mechanisms.

Alberta Culture, Youth and Recreation implemented a number of community participation and leadership development projects in northern communities and the Northern Development Branch provided funding to the Isolated Communities Secretary-Treasurer Program. Travel assistance was also provided to ensure participation by northern remote residents at public meetings of the Northern Alberta Development Council and at workshops in local areas.

The Northern Alberta Development Council played a major role in the achievement of this program objective, in that Council provided a forum for northerners to voice ideas and concerns related to socio-economic development within their region.

Community Services – The third program implemented projects designed to provide isolated northern communities with the physical facilities required to support their socio-economic development.

Alberta Environment was active with a Northern Water Supply Project which provided numerous northern communities with new or improved safe water supply by means of wells, cisterns and treatment plants. Alberta Utilities and Telephones' Northern Electrification Project saw power supplied to numerous isolated areas. Community distribution systems were also installed and house wiring completed in over 250 homes.

A major project to improve internal access roads in various isolated communities was completed by Alberta Transportation. The department also implemented special projects in Fort Chipewyan (street paving) and High Level (McKenzie Highway Service Facility).

The Northeast Commissioner and the Northern Development Branch implemented community planning projects in Fort Chipewyan, Fort MacKay and Anzac. Physical studies by various departments related to water and sewer and communications were also completed.

The Land Tenure Project was a major new initiative implemented by Alberta Municipal Affairs. Alberta Housing and Public Works instituted two innovative housing projects: the Isolated Communities Log Housing Program and the Waskayigun Program for Metis Settlements. An experimental stackwall house was also constructed at Kikino.

Community Economic Development – Projects in this program were aimed at stimulating a range of economic activities for individuals and community groups in northern Alberta. The projects focussed on servicing major developments and identifying and developing community- or resource-based opportunities.

Numerous research and technical support activities were carried out by Alberta Business Development and Tourism and other departments, centering on feasibility studies (e.g. Fort Chipewyan Granite, Aspen Utilization, Kikino Tree Nursery, Northern Surface Transportation) and support of small local economic development projects (e.g. Victor Lake Co-op, Sturgeon Lake Developments, fish co-ops, Alberta Trappers Central Association).

Native economic development projects were implemented by the Native Secretariat. The projects involved assistance to native organizations and related specific activities. The Northern Development Branch and Alberta Social Services and Community Health implemented a Community Enabling Economic Development Strategy. CEEDS Projects in Janvier, Bonnyville, Fort Vermilion, Fort Chipewyan, Fort Chipewyan and Lesser Slave Lake area allowed self-help job creation activities to provide economic development experience to residents.

A major resource impact analysis was carried out by the Northern Development Branch on behalf of the Northeast Commissioner, and four Rural Development Projects were initiated in northern Alberta by the Regional Development Branch of Alberta Business Development and Tourism. The four regional self-help projects were centered in Lac La Biche, High Level, High Prairie, and McLennan, and encompassed surrounding communities, Indian Reserves, and Metis Settlements.

Planning and Management – Program management for the Interim

Agreement and planning for a long term Agreement were the activities carried out in this sector.

The Northern Development Branch engaged in numerous monitoring and planning activities related to the Agreement, and completed profiles, inventories, data base studies and demographic and social characteristic reviews of northern Alberta.

A major Education North Project was launched by Alberta Education, focussing on community-based curriculum and organizational development.

Alberta North Agreement, 1978-83

On February 8, 1978, Honourable R.W. Dowling, Minister of Alberta Business Development and Tourism, and Chairman of the Northern Alberta Development Council; and Honourable Marcel Lessard, Federal Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, signed a five-year, $55 million long term Agreement in Fort Vermilion. The Agreement was also co-signed by the Federal Minister of Employment and Immigration, the Federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, and the Alberta Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The Northern Alberta Development Council had substantial input into the planning of the new Agreement, and viewed the programming to be carried on as necessary to the achievement of its goals and priorities, particularly for the remote areas of northern Alberta.

Under the terms of the follow-up Agreement, Alberta and DREE initiated cost-sharing for $45 million worth of provincially-administered projects in four program areas:

Human Development – This program was designed to provide a process through which individuals and families could make informal decisions regarding their future. Projects provided northerners with the opportunity to develop life skills and attitudes prerequisite to entry into socio-economic opportunities.

The Opportunity Corps, now administered by Alberta Advanced Education & Manpower, continued under this program in various northern communities. Two programs operated by Alberta Education were also cost-shared. The Education North Project which was designed under the Interim Agreement was implemented to meet the needs of small isolated communities. Local societies were created centering on the communities of Lac La Biche, Fort Vermilion, Slave Lake, Fort Chipewyan, Atikameg, Little Red River and Wabasca Desmarais. The second initiative involved a School Lunch Program, which saw the provision of a hot lunch and the required local community development skills in 29 northern remote communities.

Another major project in this area was Development of Management Capabilities which was delivered to the eight northern Metis Settlements by Alberta Municipal Affairs. The project was designed to assist in development of management and local government skills.

Community Services & Facilities – As a key component in supporting northern economic development, this program continued a number of initiatives implemented under the Interim Agreement.

The Northern Water Supply Project continued under Alberta Environment, and major projects were completed by Alberta Transportation regarding resource and remote community roads. Substantial progress was made on Metis Settlement and Isolated Communities Housing by Alberta Housing and Public Works, and the Land Tenure Project was expanded through Alberta Municipal Affairs.

Major new initiatives undertaken in the program for the period 1978-83 involved water and sewer, natural gas and electrical services. Through an initiative of the Northern Alberta Development Council, the province approved a major Northern Supplementary Fund for water and sewer to provide extra funding to assist in the provision of necessary services in various northern Improvement Districts. Projects have been completed involving the communities of La Crete, Fort Vermilion, Paddle Prairie, Worsley, Woking, Wandering River, Fort Chipewyan, Canyon Creek, Joussard, Gift Lake, Smith, Grouard, Desmarais, Wabasca, Kikino, Calling Lake, Conklin, Caslan, Trout Lake, Peerless Lake, Sandy Lake, Loon Lake, Big Prairie, Fishing Lake, Elizabeth, Anzac and Watino.

The natural gas project saw a major mainline provided to the I.D. 23 region and substantial assistance was provided through Alberta Utilities & Telephones to upgrade a number of rural electrification systems in the Athabasca and Lac La Biche areas. The Northern Electrification Project also saw the installation of electrical services in the few remaining remote communities.

Social Adjustment & Professional Development – Projects cost-shared under this program were designed to assist individuals and families in relocating to secure training and or employment opportunities. Services were provided through continued support to the Employ-

ment Counselling and Relocation Services Project of Alberta Advanced Education & Manpower. This very successful program was expanded to include Peace River, Bonnyville, High Level, Grand Centre and Whitecourt. Funding to Native Outreach was a major new initiative under the program. Outreach's prime objective is to place native people in employment.

Community Economic Development – Projects in this key program of the Agreement involved various community-based activities to promote economic development and investigate opportunities.

Alberta Tourism & Small Business continued its four northern Regional Economic Development Projects which were successful in undertaking a number of initiatives. A substantial number of research and development projects were completed through the Northern Development Branch involving the areas of resource development impact, small business opportunities, communication services, commercial fishing, the fur industry, regional growth potentials and part-time farming. Alberta Native Affairs continued to provide various forms of development assistance through CESO and the native organizations.

A major new project under Community Economic Development involved an economic strategy developed by Alberta Municipal Affairs to assist the Metis Settlements. Initiatives were implemented involving forest management, land clearing, heavy equipment, sawmills, agriculture, fishing, needlecraft and furniture manufacturing.

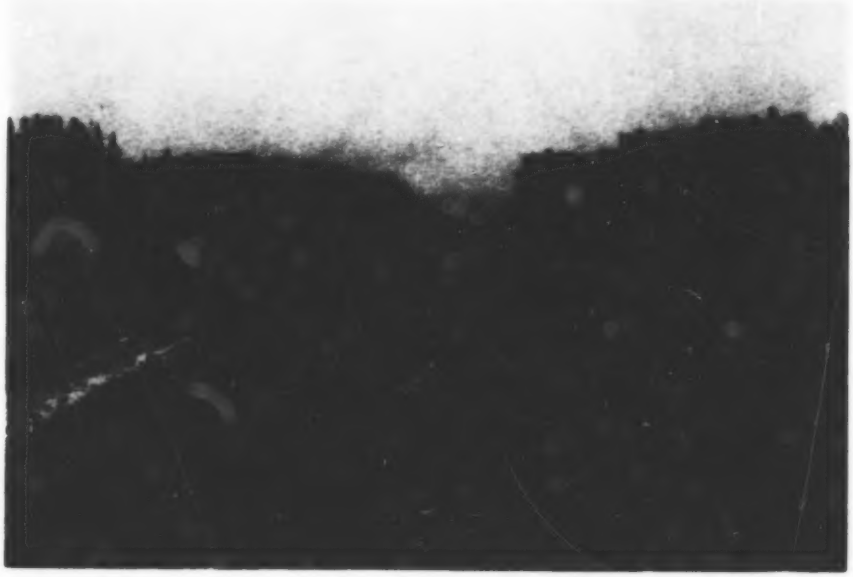
In addition to the four provincial program areas, DREE and Indian Affairs implemented a further $10 million of programming on Indian Reserves, analagous to the Community Services and Facilities program. This was an attempt to ensure equitable federal provincial distribution of community services to all northern Albertans. Canada Employment and Immigration was also consulted during the Agreement implementation in recognition of the need to coordinate its ongoing activities with the objectives of the Agreement.

NORTHERN ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENTS, 1974-79

Alberta Transportation, DREE and the Ministry of Transport signed a series of Northern Transportation Agreements complementary to the activity under the Alberta North Agreements. The objectives of the Northern Transportation Agreements, concurred with by the Northern Alberta Development Council, were directed towards social de-isolation and improved access for remote northern communities, and promotion of balanced economic development.

The Agreements, covering 1974 75, 1975 76 and 1976-79, saw Alberta and the federal government cost-share some $40 million worth of projects significant to the development of northern Alberta. Some of the activities closely corresponding to Northern Alberta Development Council priorities included:

- Work on the North Industrial Road (Highway 67) from Slave Lake to Fort Vermilion, opening up access to this vast area of central northern Alberta.
- Completion of upgrading of Highway 63 from Lac La



Biche to Fort McMurray and extension to the Syncrude Plant.

- Ugrading of the MacKenzie Highway from High Level to the Northwest Territories border.
- Highway extensions in the Rainbow Lake, Fort Vermilion, Slave Lake, Fox Creek and Cold Lake areas.
- De-isolation roads to various communities, including Calling Lake, Wabasca Desmarais, Heart Lake, Imperial Mills, Cadotte Lake and Little Buffalo.
- Construction of bridges at Dixonville, Cadotte Lake, Red Earth Creek, Slave Lake, Lac La Biche and Fort Vermilion.
- Construction of a regional services airstrip at Lac La Biche and remote access airstrips in Janvier and Cadotte Lake, and upgrading and paving of the Fort Vermilion and Fort Chipewyan airstrips.
- Community Studies in Fort McMurray, Anzac & Fort MacKay

ALBERTA HERITAGE SAVINGS TRUST FUND, 1976-83

During the period under review, the Council was particularly pleased to have input into programs and projects of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund through its MLA members. Some of the projects implemented under the Fund directly related to areas within the Council boundary were:

- Syncrude equity and Gulf Canada and Canada-Cities Services debentures.
- AOSTRA funding for in-situ recovery research at Amoco's Gregoire Lake Pilot southeast of Fort McMurray, BP's Marguerite Lake Pilot north of Bonnyville, Union Oil's Buffalo Creek Pilot west of Fort McMurray, Shell's Three Creeks Pilot east of Peace River, and numerous other activities, including the proposed Oil Sands Demonstration Test Centre.
- Alberta Housing Corporation's Rural & Native Housing, senior citizens housing, land banking and other programs in northern communities.
- Lending programs through Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation.
- Alberta Energy Company shares resulting in a share in the Syncrude Project, the Syncrude Utilities Plant and the Alberta Oil Sands and Cold Lake Bitumen Pipelines; the Primrose development, Simpsons Timber at Blue Ridge, a share in BCFP with a mill at Grande Cache and proposals for Whitecourt Fox Creek, and part ownership through Steel Alberta of the Clear Hills Iron Ore deposits.
- Various land reclamation projects.
- Productivity enhancement in Footner Lake, Peace River, Slave Lake and Lac La Biche forests and nursery seedling stock

ALBERTA OIL SANDS ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAM, 1975-80

At the inception of the federal provincial Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Research Program in 1975, a member of the Northern Alberta Development Council support staff chaired the Human Systems Scientific Advisory Committee of AOSERP. Under the auspices of this committee, AOSERP, initiated major research projects on:

- History of the Oil Sands Region
- Personal and Social Adjustment
- Health Indicators
- Rapid Growth Impacts
- Employment Patterns
- Native Labour Force Participation
- Impact of Construction Camps
- Environmental Perceptions

for northern forests from the new Smoky Lake facility.

- Agricultural research projects in sow productivity, cattle adaptability, forage preservation, rapeseed diseases, bee breeding, northern barley and wheat varieties, brush control, specialty crops, drainage standards, game ranching.
- Airport terminal construction in Grande Cache, Rainbow Lake, Swan Hills, High Prairie, Fort Vermilion, Manning, Peace River, Medley, Whitecourt, and Slave Lake.
- Grazing reserves at Valleyview, High Prairie, Blueberry Mountain, Three Creeks, Manning and Fort Vermilion.
- Lesser Slave Lake stabilization.
- New rail hopper cars.
- Urban park in Grande Prairie.
- AOC and ADC loans, approximately 30% of which were in northern Alberta.

OTHER MECHANISMS

Beyond the substantial enhancement of normal Alberta government line programs which benefitted northern Alberta during the period 1973-83, there were a number of special mechanisms which provided research and supplementary assistance to projects in northern Alberta which, in varying degrees, particularly met the Council's perception of northern needs. Alberta Research Council programs, the federal provincial Nutrititive Processing Agreement, DREE's Regional Development Incentives Act and assistance through charitable groups such as the Clifford E. Lee Foundation are examples.

STUDENT BURSARY PROGRAM

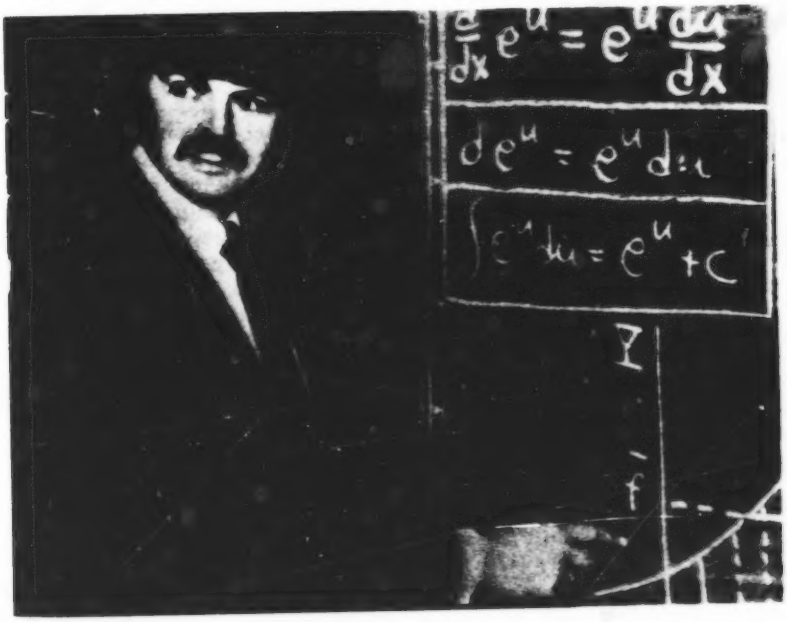
Recognizing that the attraction and retention of professional services was a major problem across northern Alberta, the Council joined with the Students' Finance Board in 1975 to create the Northern Alberta Development Council Student Bursary Program. The program offers special bursary benefits where students demonstrate that they intend to apply their education in northern Alberta. The student is expected to offer one year of service in northern Alberta for each year of bursary support received.

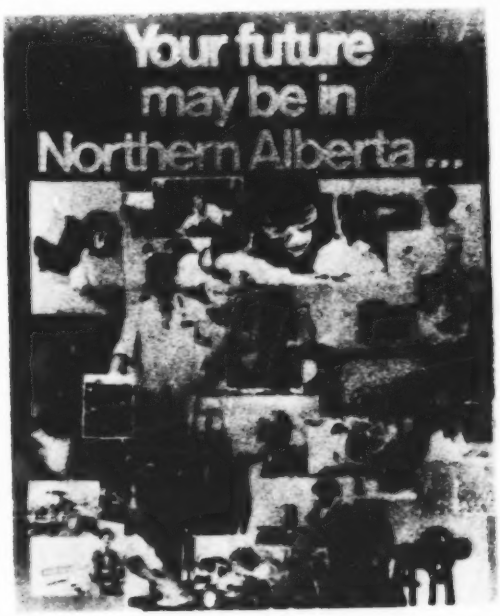
The Bursary Program is administered by a Selection Committee comprising four northern Alberta Development Councillors and one representative each from the Metis Association of Alberta, Alberta Advanced Education and the Students' Finance Board. The Committee may grant a single student up to $3,500 per academic year, and married students or those with dependents up to $5,600 per academic year.

The following table summarizes the current status of the Bursary Program. Over $3.5 million have been appropriated to date.

CHART 7:
NADC STUDENT BURSARY RECIPIENTS
1975-83

Agriculture	
Veterinary Medicine	20
Other	12
B.Sc.	28
Business Education	64
B.A.	19
Education	531
Engineering	28
Forestry	9
Law	17
Medical	
M.D.	30
Nursing	102
Pharmacy	11
Dentistry	27
Other	37
Social Work	44
Other	122
TOTAL	1101

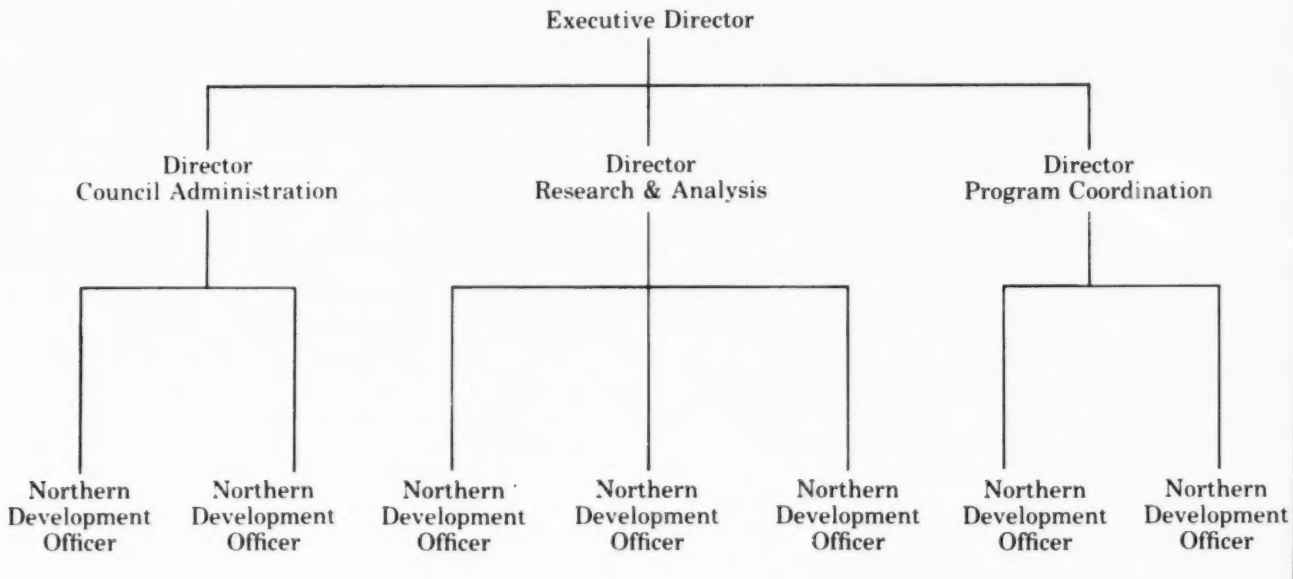




COUNCIL SUPPORT STAFF

From early 1973 until March 31, 1975, the Northern Alberta Development Council support staff reported to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for Northern Development and Indian Metis Liaison and was known as the Northern Development Group. After the 1975 election, the Minister of Business Development and Tourism was appointed Chairman of the Northern Alberta Development Council and the support staff became known as the Northern Development Branch of that department. After the elections of 1979 and 1982, a northern MLA was appointed as Chairman of the Council; however, the Branch continued to receive its funding through the same department now called Tourism & Small Business. In February of 1979 the Branch offices were relocated from Edmonton to its present headquarters in the Peace River Provincial Building.

Council support staff currently consists of ten professionals and three administrative staff organized in the following manner:

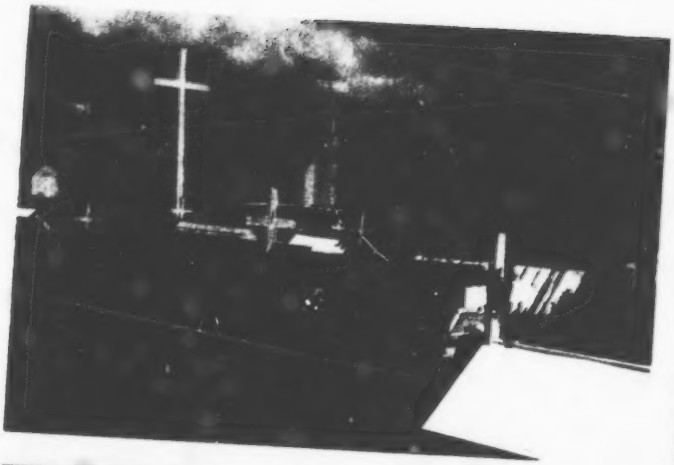


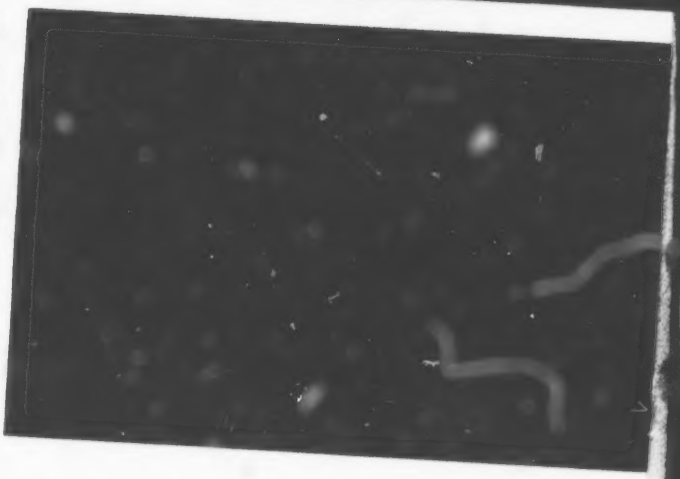
The Branch attempts to implement a flexible socio-economic development strategy on behalf of the Council, by providing research and administrative support, coordinating special field projects, organizing and serving on numerous interdepartmental committees, and fulfilling its role as provincial coordinator of the Alberta North Agreement.

SUMMARY

The Northern Alberta Development Council has undertaken to fulfill its mandate since 1973 by pursuing a wide variety of tasks. It is hoped the public participation mechanisms and program/policy advisory role documented in this ten year review, have served the citizens of northern Alberta well.

The Council looks forward to future years of service on behalf of northern Albertans.





POOR

QUALITY

ORIGINAL